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WOOL, Underskirts, greatly appreciated for ladies suffering from Rheumatism, etc., 11/6; three sizes; Body Belts, ladies' and children's sizes, from 2/6; Woven Knee Warmers, 3/6.—Robert and Co., Grafton st.
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WOOL Sleeves, fine wear, wearing clear Blouse, keeps Blouse fresh, also very warm and comfortable, for dances in grey and white, 2/11; large size, 3/6.—Robert and Co., Grafton st.

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THE GREAT AIR RAID.
HOW CENTRAL ENGLAND WAS "LAID IN RUINS."
GERMAN FARRAGO OF LIES.
We print the following account of the Zeppelin raid over the Midlands on January 31 for the purpose of showing the kind of stuff which the German military authorities find it necessary to issue in order to conceal the failure of their airships to achieve any military success. Upon the Berlin official telegram of February 1, which purported to describe the effects of the raid, the War Office in its bulletin remarked that this affords a further proof that the raiders were quite unable to ascertain their position or shape their course with any degree of certainty. The precise accuracy in elaboration of official *communiqués* dished up for popular consumption. It will be observed that very few of the places which are enumerated in this fantastic fiction are in the counties upon which the bombs were dropped—Norfolk, Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Leicestershire, and Derbyshire. The number of bombs dropped was 393, and some damage, not very serious, was caused to railway property in two places. Only two factories, neither being of military importance, and a brewery were badly damaged, and two or three other factories were damaged slightly. According to the final figures just issued by the War Office the deaths number 67, including 25 women and 15 children, while the injured numbered 117.
The *Frankfurter Zeitung* of February 2 devotes a column to the recent air raids. The heading is—"The Result of the air attacks on the night of January 31-February 1." The report is issued by the Wolff Bureau, and is as follows.—From an authoritative source we have received the result of the air attacks on the night of January 31-February 1, 1916, as follows:—
(1) LIVERPOOL.
The main objects of the attack were the docks, harbours, and factory works. The working of the bombs was good. As the airships retired an immense conflagration was visible. A number of bridges and harbour spaces were so badly injured as to render them for the present impassable. A number of ships on the Mersey were badly hit, among them a transport ship of the Leyland Line. Stabling for 200 horses was destroyed by the fire, the horses and the Canadians who guarded them killed. In Birkenhead, Garston, and Bootle much damage was done. The Bootle Line and the Yeoward Line have been greatly injured by the destruction of their docks. Three of their ships were badly hurt. The neighbouring oil and machinery works, also the Birkenhead dry dock, engine, and boiler works were completely destroyed. Altogether 200 houses have been destroyed by bombs or fires. At the mouth of the Mersey (Bootle) a powder factory was totally destroyed. In Crewe, south-east of Liverpool, the railway premises were badly injured, so that the traffic with London was interrupted. Military camps there are said to have been set on fire.
(2) MANCHESTER.
The points of attack were in the first place the smelting furnaces, which were bombed with excellent success. Two smelting works and two factories (iron foundries) were totally destroyed. A number of other factory premises suffered severe injury.
(3) SHEFFIELD.
In the south of the city two smelting works were bombed, one of which was almost wholly destroyed. Further several large industrial establishments and the railway station were struck; in addition, two sheds, which served as military purpose are destroyed. Large conflagrations were noticed for a long time after the bombing.
(4) NOTTINGHAM.
Attacks were made on large factories and smelting furnaces. Good results were observed; also a battery was bombed which, after shooting at our airships without result, was brought to silence. A munition factory and several other factories were badly injured. East of Nottingham, at Grantham, the railway works were destroyed, so that communications were interrupted for several days. The greatest injury has been inflicted both at Nottingham and Sheffield. London insurance offices estimate the injury at £400,000 (M.8,000,000).
(5) BIRMINGHAM.
Two large Government works and two munition factories were totally destroyed, and a brewery injured. Great injury was inflicted in general on Staffordshire, Shropshire, Cheshire, Leicestershire, and Yorkshire. In Eccleshill, near Bradford, a munition factory and three spinning mills were destroyed, and in Partington 22 houses were destroyed by one bomb.
(6) THE HUMBER.
A battery which vainly directed its fire against one of our airships was attacked, and silenced. The guns and searchlights were destroyed. In addition a number of industrial establishments on the Humber, also a smelting furnace with large premises, were bombed. Everywhere excellent results were noticed. In Grimsby the quays, wharves, and stores were badly injured, and several cargo and fishing boats. A hay and straw store was burned down, which caused much loss.
Between Hedon and Salt Endon (below Hull) a powder magazine was destroyed, and in the neighbourhood of Hull an iron foundry was badly injured. In Hull the destruction is said to have been enormous, nearly as great as in Sheffield and Nottingham. In King street a block of houses has been totally destroyed, and the railways and docks so badly treated as to cause great difficulty with the traffic. It is said that several cargo ships in the docks have been burnt. Above Goole and Nith were sunk. The Caroline sank in six minutes. Thirty-one of the crew were killed, 58 wounded, and 47 drowned.
(7) GREAT YARMOUTH.
A factory and several industrial works were struck, and good results observed. On the coast a battery was silenced, and the British ship Franz Fisher sunk by one of the aircraft.

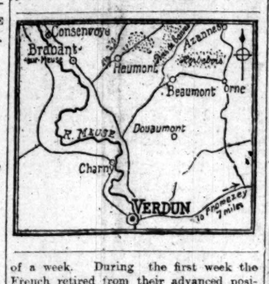
THE WAR WEEK BY WEEK.

A CRITICAL REVIEW.

(I.)

THE BATTLE OF VERDUN.

The German attack on Verdun, after a second stop at the beginning of the week, has been resumed with full violence within the last few days. At its outset, it will be recalled, the French front ran from Brabant-sur-Meuse through Haumont, north of Beaumont, and through the Herbebois to Orne, sweeping thence south-eastwards from the heights of the Meuse into the Plain of the Woevre. It runs now from a point just south of the angle of the Meuse north of Charny to the plateau of Douaumont, continuing due east to the Orne road, and then bending south slightly in advance of that road along the crests of the heights of the Meuse. The German effort has now been in progress a full fortnight, and the course of the action divides itself sharply into two separate halves, each embracing the period

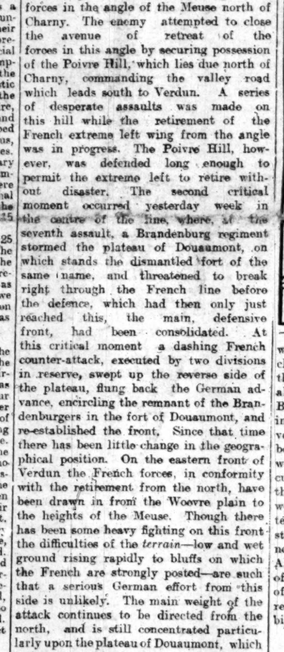


of a week. During the first week the French retired from their advanced positions in successive stages until their line came to rest again upon the front of which the plateau of Douaumont is the centre. There occurred during this phase of the action two critical moments. One occurred on the left wing, where the Germans sought to enclose the retiring French forces in the angle of the Meuse north of Charny. The enemy attempted to close the avenue of retreat of the forces in this angle by securing possession of the Poivre Hill, which lies due north of Charny, commanding the valley road which leads south to Verdun. A series of desperate assaults was made on this hill while the retirement of the French extreme left wing from the angle was in progress. The Poivre Hill, however, was defended long enough to permit the extreme left to retire without disaster. The second critical moment occurred yesterday week in the centre of the line, where, at the seventh assault, a Brandenburg regiment stormed the plateau of Douaumont, on which stands the dismantled fort of the same name, and threatened to break right through the French line before the defence, which had then only just reached this, the main, defensive front, had been consolidated. At this critical moment a dashing French counter-attack, executed by two divisions in reserve, swept up the reverse side of the plateau, flung back the German advance, encircling the remnant of the Brandenburgers in the fort of Douaumont, and re-established the front. Since that time there has been little change in the geographical position. On the eastern front of Verdun the French forces, in conformity with the retirement from the north, have been drawn in from the Woevre plain to the heights of the Meuse. Though there has been some heavy fighting on this front the difficulties of the *terrain*—low and wet ground rising rapidly to bluffs on which the French are strongly posted—are such that a serious German effort from this side is unlikely. The main weight of the attack continues to be directed from the north, and is still concentrated particularly upon the plateau of Douaumont, which is in a sense the key to the French position. The attack gained a little ground on Friday, and secured a footing in the village of Douaumont, which lies a little north and west of the fort, but seems as yet to have made no serious impression on the French defences. The positions in which the French now stand, their definitive line of resistance, are incomparably stronger than those which they have abandoned, commanding bare country which forms a natural *glacis* about Verdun. On this line the decision of the battle of Verdun must be reached.

(II.)

ARMENIA AND MESOPOTAMIA.

The Russian advance in Armenia makes most promising headway. North-westwards from Erzerum the pursuit is closing in steadily on the great port of Trebizond. Due west from Erzerum it has proceeded almost as far as Erzingan, a hundred miles away, without as yet coming



into contact with the Turkish reinforcements. There is to be observed, however, a certain caution in the advance in these directions. South of Erzerum the Russian pursuit has achieved a notable success in the occupation of the important military post of Bitlis, south-west of Lake Van. By the capture of this place the Russians are now well embarked upon the great enterprise of crossing the Taurus range and menacing the Turkish communications down the Tigris valley with Bagdad. We may be sure, however, that the Turks will put forth a supreme effort to prevent this threat to their sole avenue of communications into the Mesopotamian front from maturing, and the tangled mountain region of the Taurus is likely to be the scene of very desperate fighting before the Russian advance can descend into the Tigris valley. There is no news of any further progress towards Bagdad by the Russian forces in Persia which recently occupied Kermanshah. It is unfortunate that Sir Percy Lake is as yet unable to co-operate decisively from the south with the Russian movements. He reports that General Aylmer has made a move on the right bank of the Tigris below Kut-el-Amara with the object of making the Turks disclose their dispositions, and in the course of this operation he found an opportunity for inflicting heavy loss on them by artillery fire. But in his latest report Sir Percy Lake states that the Tigris is rising in flood again, and in this case no forward movement on a large scale will be practicable for some time.

(III.)

THE EVACUATION OF DURAZZO.

The whole of Albania, with the exception of the zone strongly held by the Italians about Avlona, is now in the hands of the Austrians and Bulgarians. Central Albania has been evacuated by the Italians, the purpose of their operations based on Durazzo, which was to secure the safe withdrawal of the Serbian, Montenegrin, and Albanian forces which still remained there, having been completely fulfilled. The last phase was attended by some heavy fighting. A semi-official statement issued in Rome, announcing that the embarkation of the Serbian, Montenegrin, and Albanian troops, together with the Italian Brigade, has been completed, says that men, live stock, and material were assembled and transported without the least loss, despite the great difficulties of the operation,

which was only rendered possible by the close co-operation of the Allied navies and the detachments of troops distributed along the Albanian coast. The Italian Brigade at Durazzo, while retiring according to a pre-arranged plan, was attacked by very large enemy forces, and fought a stubborn rearguard action, in which losses were heavy on both sides, to cover the evacuation. The embarkation operations, although seriously hindered by the rough weather, were accomplished under the protection of warships and torpedo boat destroyers. The Italian forces are now concentrated at Avlona, and the other Allied forces are assembled on the island of Corfu, whence there is excellent news of the progress that is being made with the reorganisation and equipment of the Serbian Army.

(IV.)

THE DEFEAT OF THE SENÚSSI.

General Sir John Maxwell's latest report on the operations on the western frontier of Egypt against the Senussi should mean the end of this vexatious commitment of our

forces in Egypt. The action, which he describes as ending in "a decisive success" for our arms, was fought near Barani, which is close to the Tripoli frontier south of Sollum Bay. All the earlier actions were fought at much shorter distances from Matruh, which is the British advanced base. The enemy were under the personal command of Nuri Bey (brother of Enver), with Gasfar as his principal subordinate, and were holding a strong position some fifteen miles south-east of Barani. General Peyton reports that the attack by the South African infantry, under General Lukin, was completely successful, and that "the charge of the Dorsetshire Yeomanry was brilliant and most effective." In this charge Gasfar was wounded and made a prisoner, and Nuri was killed. The enemy left more than two hundred killed and wounded on the ground. Two other Turkish officers are also prisoners in our hands. One machine-gun was captured. The telegraph line between Matruh and Barani is not completely restored, so that full details are not yet to hand.

W.

A RUNNING GAZETTEER.

PLACES MENTIONED IN THE WEEK'S NEWS.

Armenia.—The various routes of the Turkish retreat from Erzerum or advance to that city may be indicated in a few words. From Erzerum north to the Black Sea there are four roads, one to Rizeh and three to Trebizond. The main road to Trebizond passes by Baiburt and Gumushhaneh, and is about 200 miles long, or a continuous journey of about 70 hours. A little known but more beautiful way branches off some miles beyond Baiburt, and joins the *chaussée* some fifteen miles to the south of Trebizond. This road takes fully three days to cover. The shortest route, leaving the *chaussée* half way between Baiburt and Gumushhaneh and joins it at the same point as the second route mentioned. The second and third roads, however, are mule tracks, paved in places, and really summer routes. From Erzerum westward the direct road passes through the military station of Erzingan (75 miles), thence over a mountainous country to Sivas (230 miles), a town of great strategic importance, built at an altitude of 4,420ft., and a centre where seven roads and two rivers meet. Though Sivas is severely cold in winter the surrounding country is very fruitful. Fully 200 miles separate Sivas from Angora, the railhead from Constantinople, which is two days' journey distant, with a break at Eski-Shehr. There are roads from Erzerum south-west to Kharput (125 miles), and Diarbekr, on the Tigris (150 miles), and one southward by Khinis, Mush, and Bitlis. The region in which the victorious Russians are now pursuing the Sultan's broken armies is noted, among other things, for its fine walnut trees, which not only provide much oil used by the Armenians during their long fasts, but also much of the walnut veneer used in furniture making. The trees develop very large woody excrescences or knots, the grain and mottling of which are very beautiful, and these are sought for by furniture manufacturers from all over Europe. Fortunately the removal of a growth does not kill the tree, the bark growing again over the uncovered portion of the trunk. A very interesting people whose future will be in Russia's charge are the Laz or Lazis. They inhabit the coastal strip east of Trebizond and the mountains behind it. There could hardly be a greater contrast than that between their manners at home and abroad. Every spring large numbers of them go to Erzerum to serve as gardeners and agriculturists, and they are found there to be quiet, orderly and trustworthy folk. Many of the Constantinople boatmen are Laz, all these having served in the Turkish Navy, and patrons find them honest and civil. But at home in Lazistan they are inveterate robbers, and in the past they have been notorious as pirates.

Dieppe.—To find Dieppe among the places which the Germans have marched through in their advance upon Verdun is a little startling if one has not been closely studying the map. Fortunately there is no room for real confusion here as in the case of the two Givenchys on the Western front, or that of the two Loos. The Loos which the citadel gives is so much further on than the other that at first, last autumn, many people hastily supposed our men were right upon Lille. Some names, for instance, as Beaumont, which turns up all over the place, are obviously such as would be likely to do so. But since the Dieppe we know takes its name from the "dieppe" or inlet of the sea which attracted the Norsemen, the appearance of another Dieppe far inland is unexpected.

Hayti.—A brief telegram announces the ratification by the United States Senate of a treaty with Hayti establishing a United States "control"—that is, a protectorate—over the Black Republic. For some time past things in Hayti had been going even worse than usual. Revolution followed revolution, one bloodier than the other, and so-called Presidents succeeded one another with lightning rapidity. The last President but one saved himself at the French Legation, while his lieutenant Oscar put to death 160 political prisoners, including the ex-President Zampr. The crowd then invaded the French Legation, seized Guillaume, and shot him on the spot. This moved the United States to send a warship to Port-au-Prince. Vice-Admiral Caperton landed marines, who disarmed the revolutionists, and a new Congress was summoned by him to elect a new President. The elections took place under American bayonets, and General Sudre Dartiguenave, former president of the Senate, found himself seated in the Presidential chair. The revenue of the Republic, consisting chiefly of Customs receipts, amounts to over 9,000,000 dollars, of which nearly 3,000,000 dollars go to pay the foreign coupon. There thus remain 2,000,000 dollars per annum for the use of the Republic, and this forms the apple of discord among the various "generals." Among the Haytian creditors are Germans, and it has been for some time past more and more noticeable that they had entertained the idea of ousting all other rivals in order to become the virtual "protectors" of the Republic. President Leconte, for instance, was in close alliance with them and drew up a project for converting the entire debt of the Republic with the aid of German finance, which was to receive by way of compensation a number of important monopolies in railway and mining enterprise. Though Leconte soon afterwards perished in the flames of his own palace, the Germans did not desist from their plans, and shortly before the outbreak of the present war the German Government openly declared that, the European interests being such as they were, nothing short of an international control over Haytian finances was admissible. This was almost a challenge to the Americans and the Monroe Doctrine, and it was suspected that Guillaume was acting in collusion with its authors. It was thus natural that America should have seized the first opportunity to assert her prior rights at a moment when the chief promoter of "internationalism" in Haytian finance was busy elsewhere.

Kermanshah.—Kermanshah, occupied by the Russians in Persia, the capital of the district of the same name, is a place of considerable strategical importance. When this country was at war with Persia in 1856 the late Sir Henry Rawlinson recommended that it should be used as our main *dépôt* in the event of a British force marching from Bagdad on Teheran. The city is built on rising ground, which is connected with hills to the south. The old walls, some three or four miles in circumference, are now in ruins, and the moat is encumbered with their *débris*, so that it is in reality an open town. There are five gates and numerous loop-holed towers that flanked the wall. The inhabitants (about 10,000) are chiefly Shias. In normal times Kermanshah was governed by a Prince of the blood. It has an arsenal, and was usually garrisoned by 5,000 regular troops. An American traveller, Professor A. V. Williams, of Columbia Uni-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.)

SPECIAL EXTRA
STOCK EXCHANGE FINANCE.
WEEKLY NOTES.
DUBLIN DISTILLERS AND HENRY STREET WAREHOUSE CO.
There has been a quiet amount of dealing during the past week on 'Change. Chief attention was given to Dublin Distillers securities, which have fluctuated somewhat. There was a dull tendency in the earlier part of the week on the absence of any published comments at the extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders to sanction the alteration and addition to certain of the company's Articles of Association, to allow the Board to consider and formulate proposals for capital reduction on equitable lines. No details of the proposed scheme have yet been decided on, and probably particulars will not be forthcoming for a couple of months. Every week should be improving the prospects for the Pref. shareholders, particularly as whiskey is still rising. The big arrears of dividend, nearly equal to £5 a share, will doubtless also be considered in any capital reduction scheme. The Funds were dull. Consols quoted ex. dividend have been sold. Big Government borrowing proposals must be very near now, and the question agitating investors and holders of existing stocks is whether they are really the cheaper to buy now or better wait for the new issue

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JAMES H. N
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Expanding Dining Table, Pedestal
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and Merlin Chair, Grandfather Clock, Inl
Parcel Desk, Sideboard, Cabinets, &c.; Gold our
Bedrooms, all Handsomely Furnished, i
Furniture, Culinary Utensils; Furniture
OUTDOOR EFFECTS, comprising:—
Fraser, Saddles, Harness, Garden Seats, To
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TUESDAY, 28TH M
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THE ENTIRE HIGH-CL
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Table, French Table, with Plaques on t
Stand, Oval Inlaid Table, Walnut Falling-
Cupboards, Mahogany Duchesse Toilet Ta
Two-door Wardrobe, Mahogany Toilet
Tables, Combined Scotch Wardrobe and
Bedsteads, with Spring and Hair Mattres
Stand, Settle, Pair Hall Chairs, Grandfat
OIL PAINTINGS, including several
Figures; Seascapes, &c., signed (or attrib
Chinese Blue, H. Williams, 1853), Cole,
of Travel, Biography, History, Fiction, a
Dresden shaped Cup, with Cover and Sta
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and PLATED WARE; Sets of Fish and
Clocks, Candlesticks, Figures, &c., &c.
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Hall, direct from Model House, for
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to 6% cct. per annum, adjusted.
2 rooms for servants, bathroom (with hot
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Rents to suit tenant. Title: Fee-simple.
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"FAIRPAX," KENILWORTH PA
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Brussels Carpets, handsome Early Victori
last Dinner Service, pretty Tea and
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and FURNISHINGS of the above-menti
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Bedsteads, Spring and Hair Mattress
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some Oval-shaped Gilt Mirror, with ribb
overall; Pianette, Occasional Pictures, in Gi
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and Table Cutlery, &c.
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Commencing at Sale. Catalogues
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CARPET AUCTI
J. F. KEOGH & CO. HAVE
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Property of a Firm of Merchants and Exp
Handsome specimens from the w
BOKHARA, &c.
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a good dwellinghouse. The stock cons
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have accommodation for 8 horses.
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THE ENEMY'S POINT OF VIEW.

A WEEK'S EXTRACTS FROM THE GERMAN PRESS.

The Battle of Verdun.

All the German newspapers make a great feature of long accounts from their head-quarter correspondents of the Verdun operations. Without exception these are characterised by the emphasis laid on the fact that the main factor in the success claimed was artillery preparation. Close examination suggests that the motive for this line is to infer that the German losses were not heavy, a matter on which there is terrible anxiety among the public. It is quite clear that the writers were officially inspired to adopt this strain. Describing the earlier operations the correspondent of the *Berliner Tageblatt* says:—

"In the struggle on the line from the Meuse to Azannes extraordinary difficulties had to be met. The untiring exertions of the French had been successful in creating along a front of fifty kilometres an apparently impregnable chain of field works. Speaking generally, these positions ran parallel with the German bow drawn around them, leaving only the west side open. On the northern front which has now been dented in the position they were cleverly covered from view by the French. They had used trees as poles for close wire entanglements, and besides that the branches which had been cut down were heaped up in enormous quantities to make high barriers, and were threaded through with barbed wire. This hindrance was not only good cover against infantry, but also against artillery, on account of its combined softness and resisting force. Also it was generally so arranged behind the edge of the wood that it was even covered by the trees which were before it, and at the same time offered a good outlook for the French riflemen.

"It is left to the ever-ingenious *Kölnische Volkszeitung* to explain why the Germans give no figures as to the alleged captured material. This is its naive reasoning:—

"The nature of the very great booty is expressly not mentioned in order to avoid that different units should report the same booty, and that through undue haste a double reckoning should be made."

The Offensive in the West.

The military correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* decides the expectations which are attached in England and France to the Allies' war council, and thinks that the effort will break down against the diversity of political ambition and military opinion.

"The very fact that the plan of each member of the Council can be improved contains the germ of compromise, that is, of decisions of a character which is least suited in warfare, because they must lack the violent element of a ruthless will. A complete decision can only be taken by one person. An assembly will always exaggerate the risk which is attached to every decision, and will, in order to minimise the risk, rob the decision of its striking force. This is borne out by the experience which Napoleon wittily summed up by saying: 'Better one bad general than two good ones.' The thing important in war is not so much the absolute perfection of the plan as the translation of the sensible idea into an act with the highest energy."

Speaking then of the recent German attacks in the West, the correspondent says:—"It is quite impossible for the enemy to understand the strategical motives underlying the German local attacks. They may be tactical preparations for a great attack to break through, but they may also have for their object an improvement of our defensive positions, and, lastly, they may be of a purely demonstrative character. This uncertainty about the intentions of the German leaders is a powerful factor in the strategical calculation. The German people, the clear understanding for important this uncertainty among its enemies is, must reconcile itself with patience to the fact that it, too, knows nothing about what is coming. It must console itself with the refreshing thought that our armies in the West, East, and South are, materially and morally, in a position to solve any and every problem that is put before them."

Mr. Asquith's Declaration.

The Foreign Office Press Bureau lost no time in replying to Mr. Asquith's declaration about peace. Its line is to avoid discussion of the real point, and to concentrate on the sentence in which Mr. Asquith accused the German Chancellor of colossal and shameless audacity" in pretending that Germany is not the enemy of small nations. A semi-official telegram from Berlin to the *Cologne Gazette* says that in view of the military situation Mr. Asquith's repetition of his famous declaration is "a record in big words," that his reference to the Imperial Chancellor are only another proof of "the complete decadence of feelings and manners in the England of to-day." The writer proceeds:—

"This party lawyer, whose sole and frantic effort is to keep a party in power which has given England the greatest fiasco in her history, differs from a statesman like Bethmann-Hollweg precisely in the same way as England's aphenomena differ from the aims boastfully proclaimed by her Government. One must measure Asquith's declaration by the proportions of power, by our occupation of Belgium and Northern France, by the tying up of the power of Russia far from our frontiers, and by the insufficiency of the new recruits for the English Army, in order to see the declaration for what it is—a ridiculous piece of rhetorical humbug. The English premier thinks that he is prompting the unity of the Alliance and pumping up the courage into the discontented Russians and the unsuccessful French. He is wrong. He has only brought English impotence to the light."

The Press reports the "peace" speeches at great length. The *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* says that Mr. Asquith's declaration was carried out "even more repulsive" than that of M. Sazonoff, and that he has "gone down to mix with the mob, which wants to be consoled for failures with an endless flood of outbursts of hatred." The *Frankfurter Zeitung*, in an article called "Asquith the Strong," says:—

"The fact that England's Prime Minister adopts the language of the street in order to define his attitude towards an utterance which he does not like from the German Imperial Chancellor is a new fact in the political history of modern times. How miserable must be the cause whose chief representative abandons the language of the street in order to define his attitude towards an utterance which he does not like from the German Imperial Chancellor is a new fact in the political history of modern times. How miserable must be the cause whose chief representative takes refuge in coarse words of abuse!"

The writer contrasts with Mr. Asquith's language of the calm German "personages," and ends with the usual assertion that deeds and not words will win the war. Apart from this new passion for good manners, the German authorities do not yet seem to have discovered any answer to the Prime Minister's declaration.

"Gott Strafe England."

Commenting on Mr. Asquith's speech in the House of Commons on the subject of peace, the *Kölnische Volkszeitung* says:—"One must admit that Mr. Asquith expressed himself as clearly as possible and left no doubt concerning Great Britain's aims. Those in Germany who have believed in the possibility of a peaceful arrangement with Great Britain must now renounce this phantom. The longer the war lasts the stronger must the conviction grow that the solution as regards Great Britain can only be secured by a fight to a finish." A Scandinavian correspondent recently gave in *The Times* impressions of the present state of opinion in Germany. Among other things he said that the cry "Gott Strafe England" was long since silenced among us, and that the bitterness against Great Britain lost some of its strength. The man is a bad observer. 'Gott Strafe England' rings no longer, it is true, as a battlecry, but in all Germans souls it is written with burning letters by the events of the war. Great Britain is the enemy, and there will be no peace until she is humbled."

Gold Wanted.

The German Press, almost apologetically this time, prints another appeal for more gold to be brought into the Reichsbank. It says that more than £60,000,000 in gold has been handed in to the bank since the outbreak of war. Consequently the business of collecting the gold must get more and more difficult as time goes on. Now the Imperial bank has decided to issue commemorative certificates, suitably inscribed and patriotically decorated, to everybody who hands in at least £10 in gold, and it is hoped that these diplomas will give a new incentive to those laggards who are keeping back their gold from the Fatherland's coffers.

Sham Company Reports.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* betrays a new

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.)

THE CHURCHES.

RELIGIOUS NEWS AND NOTES.

The Bishop of Winchester, in a statement made to the Upper House of Convocation on the work of an Advisory Committee to the War Office in regard to religious ministrations in the Army, showed that great efforts have been made to increase the number of chaplains at home and abroad. The Committee, he said, had been impressed by the immense difficulties with which the Chaplain-General has had to contend, and with his strenuous and unremitting efforts to cope with the work thrown upon him. The Archbishop also expressed the opinion that critics had failed to realise how the Chaplain-General's Department, like other public departments, has been overwhelmed by the sudden and enormous expansion of work which ensued on the outbreak of war. Criticism, he admitted, may often have been justified, but, speaking from considerable experience of the work, the Primate said he did not think they ought to fall upon the Chaplain-General. There have undoubtedly been cases where men who have only recently entered priests' orders have been appointed and where men of long experience and undoubted fitness have been refused, but the Archbishop assured the House that the Chaplain-General has practically made it clear that any suitable man recommended by a Diocesan Bishop is almost sure of an appointment at an early date. On the other hand, it must be admitted that some serious reflections were made on the Chaplain-General's Department, both by Viscount Halifax and the Rev. Paul Bull, of the Community of the Resurrection, as a meeting of the English Church Union. The latter stated that the Army regulation service was a proved failure, and Lord Halifax read several letters which he had received complaining of the inadequate supply of chaplains and of the action of the Chaplain-General with regard to soldiers who required special spiritual ministrations.

It appears from a statement made by the Archbishop of Canterbury to Convocation that the authorities of the Church of England have made no application to the War Office on recruiting authorities for wholesale exemption of theological students. At the present time there are in the colleges and hostels which remain open about 340 men, against an average for the past few years of 1,258, but a large proportion are unfit for service or over military age. In January last the War Office issued an instruction that "Roman Catholic ecclesiastical students who have already entered on their professional studies in immediate preparation for the priesthood are on no account at any time to be accepted for service in the Army." With regard to the Church of England, the War Office now proposes to issue an order confining its operations to those who are to be ordained not later than the Trinity Ordination, in June next. This shows that the Church of England, as in the case of the clergy, is asking for no exceptional privileges, nor in any way seeking unduly to exempt theological students from active service.

The Church of India has given—as it would seem—its first martyr to Christ in the person of Dr. Mehr Khan, who was holding the fort at the lonely frontier outpost of Thal, on the North-West Frontier, when modern invaded the mission hospital, and took him prisoner. Offered the option of apostasy or death, the servant of God made his choice and met his bitter passion without flinching. Another great event in the history of the Church in Asia is the consecration of the first Corean priest. The epistle and gospel were read in Japanese and Corean. The Liturgy of 1549 was used, which the Bishop intends to adopt as the form authorised for the diocese.

The Bishop of Sheffield (Dr. Burrows), speaking at an induction service at Doncaster, outlined the duties of the British clergy in the event of an invasion of this country. His lordship said he held it to be their duty in that case to risk everything, even to the extent of laying down their lives. It was never wise to be prophetic. He did not now think this country would be invaded. But, if it was, what was the duty of the clergy? They were responsible to the State as well as to the Church for the people over whom they were set, and took the oath of allegiance to the Government. It was not their duty to grasp a rifle and bayonet and shoot the enemy, but to take care of and safeguard all the non-combatants, protecting the women and children from unnameable outrage Our clergy must be like the Belgian priests who gave up their lives in hundreds rather than that those intrusted to their care should suffer. If the Germans came to England the clergy would have to stick to their posts, offer themselves as hostages if the brutal enemy demanded it, safeguard the people, and be perfectly willing to be shot and die, if need be, in defence of them.

Stands Scotland where it did in the matter of church-going? It is now given forth that the total adult membership of all Churches and societies in the country is 1,390,510. The Sunday schools contain approximately 531,261; Bible classes and youth societies 159,371; adherents and children not of Sunday school age, but belonging to Church families, approximate 337,897. The Protestant Church total, 2,427,059. The Roman Catholic Church claims to have in Scotland as the total number of souls 545,969. The total Church population would thus be 2,973,008. This deducted from the total population gives the Churchless population as 1,787,895.

The Rev. R. J. Campbell preached his first sermon as a clergyman of the Church of England at Birmingham Cathedral last week, and incidentally referred to the war and its issue. The English nation, he said, could not honestly claim it had deserved very well of God in the immediate past. We believed our cause was just, and the greater part of the wirld thought so, too. We were fighting a savage and relentless foe, who would show no mercy to us if we lost, and we were doing it for the sake of the future of civilisation. But were we entitled to maintain that therefore our cause was God's, and that He would ensure us victory in the end? It did not follow. He had a full confidence in the ultimate triumph of our arms, but God had other and higher ends to serve even in the terrific whirl of blood and slaughter, of weeping eyes and broken hearts than were altogether visible to us. We must do our best to work with God, not against Him. We were suffering from the gross materialistic ideals by which civilisation had been living for some time past.

Everybody in this country will hear with great regret of d'Annunzio's wound. It was his tremendous campaign, supported by the King and one or two patriotic editors, which did as much as anything to bring Italy definitely in on the side of the Allies. There has been nothing quite like his campaign against the detested Austrian "hangman" in any country for a long time. He really preached a crusade. When he came to Rome in May last year the whole city flocked out to meet him. "His few and simple words of thanks and greeting," says one who was there, "made each heart thrill with new faith and hope and devotion to the sacred cause of Italy: and when at the end in a clear, firm voice he said, 'Brothers, let us sing the hymn!' (the hymn of Mameli) he became one with his people."

In a useful little book on "Intercommunion with the Eastern Orthodox Church" (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) the Rev. R. W. Barnie shows himself a trustworthy guide through what is, for many of us, the *terra incognita* of the historical relations between the Churches of Old and New Rome. The origin of the schism, he observes, was political rather than theological. The Christian barbarians of the West were impressed by that glamour of the Cæsars which the Popes inherited, and by the prestige attaching to the custodians of the tombs of the Apostles; but they knew little of the "Greek" Empire or the Eastern episcopate. The Easterns on their side regarded the West as lapsed into barbarism, and, indeed, its ancient civilisation had been nearly destroyed; while the Byzantine Empire—*pace* Gibbon—was vigorously combating its enemies, and the Byzantine Church was making converts of the Slavs and Russians. Mr. Barnie details the circumstances and the consequences of the schism, and describes the principal attempts at reunion, and he shows how largely their failure was due to the appalling infamy—no milder expression will serve—of the Western Crusaders. The existing obstacles to reunion and the grounds of hope for the future are discussed with accuracy and acumen. This book should be in the hands of all those—and just now there are many—who are interested in the reunion of Christendom.

In connection with this subject it will be well to note a few significant remarks made in the Southern Convocation by the Bishop of London and the Primate. The present situation, as between the Greek Church and the Russian Church, is one of extreme delicacy—a fact which has to be taken into account by those British Churchmen who are trying to cultivate friendly relations between their own communion and the Orthodox Churches of the East.

BATTLE OF VERDUN.

DIARY OF THE ATTACK.

GERMAN PLANS AND PREPARATIONS.

A FRENCH NARRATIVE.

We are able to publish, from a French source which may be regarded as thoroughly trustworthy, the following interesting account of the battle of Verdun and the events leading up to it:—

The great offensive at present directed by the Germans against Verdun is one of the most carefully planned and most powerfully equipped movements of the whole war. The very first attacks—some of which were very violent—attempted along the whole of our front since the beginning of January, seem to have been intended to mask the decisive blow which was being prepared for Verdun.

1. January 22, February 12, February 22: attempts to cross the Yser.

2. In Artois, beginning on January 23, powerful attacks between the west of Hill 140 and the Lille road—particularly violent on January 23 and February 2, 10, 11, and 13.

3. To the south of the Somme, from January 29 to February 15, attacks on Frise.

4. Tentative attacks in the Lihons district on February 22, with use of asphyxiating gas on a front of four and a half miles.

5. On February 13, infantry attacks north of Vic, Aisne, and at Crouy, and north of Soissons, the 14th.

6. In Champagne, January 5, attacks against Hill 1.(?) and Tahure Hill; January 10, to the west of Maisons-de-Champagne; on the 12th, against a salient between Navarin and St. Souplet. On the 13th, against another salient to the east of the Tahure road at Somme Py.

7. In the Vosges, to the north of St. Die, on February 12, Wissembach affair. The enemy, who penetrated our lines, was driven out. On February 22 very violent actions, without attacks, in La Chapelotte district.

8. Finally, in the Belfort district, long-distance bombardment of this town and attacks in Upper Alsace, to the east of Seppois on February 13, and at Largitzer on the 14th.

VAST PREPARATIONS.

Under cover of these diversions the Germans accumulated troops, material, and ammunition, in view of the offensive on Verdun. During December they brought up the greater part of the heavy artillery from Serbia, together with some of the large guns in use until then on the Russian front, traction materials: Austrian 305 (12in.) mortars, and several 420 (16½in.) mortars, etc.

A division brought back from Serbia, to which was added during January four and a half corps, consisting of the best troops now at Germany's disposal, reinforced the new army corps already holding this relatively narrow section of the German front.

On February 20 there was a bombardment of medium intensity on some points north of Verdun. On the 21st there was a bombardment of increasing intensity, principally directed between the right bank of the Meuse and Forges, the principal objective appearing to be the Bois d'Haumont (north-east of Brabant-sur-Meuse), Bois des Caures, and Bois des Hautes Charrières.

The same day infantry attacks were launched on the Bois Haumont, on the Bois des Caures, and on l'Herbebois (north-east of Ornes); at these three points the enemy obtained a footing in some first-line trenches, and penetrated to the second line at l'Herbebois, whence he was partially repulsed.

On the 22nd the bombardment by heavy artillery—to which our artillery replied—reached an unheard-of intensity. Fresh attacks were made by enormous masses on a front of fifteen kilometres (9 miles). The enemy occupied the Bois Haumont during the morning; in the afternoon the bombardment extended to the left bank of the Meuse, and fierce attacks were made by the enemy, who occupied the Bois des Caures. After a desperate defence by our troops, Haumont was evacuated.

BOMBARDMENT OF 25 MILES.

During this extremely exhausting day the bombardment with very large calibre shells extended along a front of forty kilometres (twenty-five miles) between Malancourt and Étain.

On the evening of the 22nd the following was the position of our line:—From east to west through Brabant-sur-Meuse, the ridges south-east of Haumont, north of Beaumont, and 1,000 metres (about three-quarters of a mile) north of Hill 351.

On the 23rd a counter-attack made it possible for us to retake the principal line of the Caures wood; a fierce attack on Herbebois (of which we held the second line) was repulsed.

We evacuated Brabant. Continued intense artillery bombardment between Malancourt and Fromezey; we held the Samogneux-Bois-des-Caures-Beaumont-Ornes line.

During the night of the 23rd and 24th and during the day of the 24th we evacuated Samogneux on account of certain offensive actions on the part of the enemy, after having repulsed several attacks at this point. The enemy also launched attacks on the Bois des Fosses.

Our line drew back on the Talou and Poivre hills, the southern Louvement Valley Rezonvaux, and Mogeville. On the 25th (?) the enemy succeeded in occupying Louvemont, but we repulsed an attack on the Douaumont Fort. On our left we evacuated Vacherauville; we still held the Talou and Champneuville hills, but they were isolated positions. On the 26th the following was the position of our line:—The village of Louvemont, the slopes south of the Poivre hill, Haudromont farm, Douaumont, d'Ardaumont observation post.

FIGHT FOR DOUAUMONT.

In the Woevre, our advanced line was ordered to draw back to the foot of the Meuse hills to avoid a flank attack. This operation was carried out without the enemy attacking.

On the 26th there were fierce engagements round the Douaumont fortress, which certain enemy forces succeeded in occupying after a series of unavailing attacks. Our troops counter-attacked, and reached the advanced barbed wire entanglements to the right and to the left of the fortress. They held this position surrounding the enemy.

On the 27th the fighting round the fort of Douaumont continued, without, however, any change of position. An attack between the fort of Douaumont and the plateau to the north of the village of Vaux was repulsed. The Talou hill, which was bombarded by our artillery and that of the enemy, was not held by either side.

All these attacks, which were carried out with very numerous effectives, including troops of seven army corps, demonstrate the enemy's desire for victory, even at the price of the most appalling sacrifices. His losses were enormous. The slopes leading to Douaumont Fort (where desperate fighting is still going on) are strewn with dead. According to prisoners' statements, some of their regiments were entirely wiped out during successive attacks.

The bravery of our troops was beyond all praise. It must be noted that Verdun was abandoned by us as a fortress when, early in the war, it became evident that no isolated fortified town is capable of resistance. The old Verdun forts form part of the defensive line in the same way as the trenches. The capture of a fort is, therefore, equivalent to the capture of part of a trench—without the entire line being threatened.

In this connection, our front in the fortified region of Verdun, which is a salient, is similar in every way to other parts of the French line, and does not in any way constitute an especially vulnerable point or one more particularly important in defence, as the Germans would have us believe.

Our situation is improving daily with the advent of fresh troops, whereas the Germans are using their last reserves.

THE DAY OF CRISIS.

"MOST MOVING DAY OF THE WAR."

HISTORIC FRENCH CHARGE.

The correspondent of the *Liberté* in the course of a vivid despatch transmitted from the scene of battle near Verdun, says:—

The day of February 26 will remain as one of the most moving of the great war. Also let it be said that it will be one of the most glorious for the soldiers of France. During eighteen hours our soldiers remained exposed to a deluge of shot and shell of such intensity that a veteran officer who fought in the war of 1870 said that it was impossible for human beings to remain in such a hell. But our men remained in it, and it was the enemy who gave way before their heroic resistance. Under this rain of iron from colossal marmites of 305 and 420 millimetres (12 and 17 inch) our soldiers never flinched.

The orders issued by the general in command were emphatic. The least hesitation on our part, he warned his men, might compromise the security of the fortress. The German leaders were well aware of that, so the assaults of their troops were redoubled in vigour. The order was given to advance at all costs. It was not necessary for any officer to repeat formally this momentous order.

SACRIFICE OF LIFE.

Suddenly formidable detonations rent the air, echoing far and wide. By order of our chiefs all our batteries, from one end of the front of attack to the other, kept up a ceaseless fire. One could imagine the ravages caused by our artillery among the masses. Prisoners admitted that the carnage was frightful. But the onslaught of the assailants was not broken, and fresh troops were hurled into the fray. With an almost incredible prodigality the German leaders sacrificed thousands and thousands of men.

In the middle of the forenoon there was one critical instant following the taking of Fort Douaumont. The Germans had gained a footing in the inner line of our entrenchments. The French leaders had been ordered to hold the position to the death, and they held on stoically, determined to give their lives if necessary.

At last the furious attack burst upon them, led by enormous masses. In successive waves the German infantry dashed forward, their closed ranks stretching endlessly. It was the supreme attack, the attack which might decide the fate of Verdun. It was then that was launched the vigorous counter-attack by our troops. One thing no one can deny was the very irresistible dash of our soldiers, inspired by the clarion notes of the "Charge," sounded with full lungs by the trumpeters of the different companies. They threw themselves on the Germans with fierce ardour.

The struggle was truly dreadful and murderous, but once more the French showed their superiority over the Germans in battle on the open ground. The foremost ranks of the enemy were thrown into confusion and fell back slightly. Our officers profited by this and urged their men to further efforts. Overwhelmed to the west of Douaumont, the Germans abandoned the ruins of the fort.

A cry of triumph burst from all throats. According to the latest news, the enemy is still raging with wavering fortune, but confidence has come into all hearts.

OPTIMISTIC VIEW.

The military correspondent of the *Temps* writes:—The great battle to the north of Verdun seems to have reached a critical point. The enemy has ceased to advance, and by our counter-attacks our soldiers on some points have been able to take the offensive. All the German efforts on our right to take possession of the Poivre height have failed. One of their regiments which had penetrated into what was once the Fort Douaumont is surrounded there, our infantry having got beyond that position. Yesterday was a day of French recovery, the enemy being forced to give way. Without being exaggeratedly optimistic, we may say that events are taking for our arms a favourable turn. We are even more justified in saying this than we were yesterday. In our articles about the counter-attack we complained the possibility of abandoning the line Froideterre-Douaumont, and falling back on the Belleville-Souville-Vaux line, while remarking that such a move would not compromise our position. The stopping of the enemy's advance occurred sooner. He will certainly attack again, but never with the same dash.

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES.

GERMANS REPORTED TO HAVE LOST 130,000 MEN.

A Paris correspondent writes:—

I have just had an interview with an Englishman who arrived this morning from the region of Verdun. This informant says that, according to local opinion, German hopes of investing Verdun by reaching the French line on either wing of the battle front, or on both, have been definitely smashed, although the battle is by no means finished. The Germans have failed in their attempt to isolate Verdun by destroying the railway line.

The German losses to date are estimated at 130,000. The men of the Crown Prince's troops are obeying Imperial orders and are fighting to the death rather than surrender. Their losses in the fighting round Douaumont have been something like 50 per cent. of the effectives engaged. During one attack a whole battalion, with the exception of a handful of men, was wiped out. The opinion in well-informed circles is that the situation improves hourly.

LLOYD'S MAIL NEWS.

COLOMBO, Friday.—The Khiva, from London for Sydney, arrived.

MELBOURNE, Friday.—The Malwa, from London for Sydney, arrived.

PORT SAID, Friday.—The Moolton, from London for Sydney, arrived.

COLOMBO, Friday.—The Malta, from Bombay for Yokohama, arrived.

SHANGHAI, Friday.—The Novara, from Bombay for Yokohama, arrived.

NEW YORK, Friday.—The Denis, from Manaos, arrived; La Drome, from Bordeaux, arrived.

GLASGOW, Friday.—The Cameronia, for New York, left.

VICTORIA, B.C., Friday.—The Shikanoko Maru, from Hong Kong, arrived and left for Seattle.

GIBRALTAR, Wednesday.—The Omrah, from London, for Bombay, arrived.

DAKAR, Friday.—The Umaria, for Sydney, left.

DELAGOA BAY, Wednesday.—The Trushima Maru, from New York, for Vladivostock, arrived.

GRAVESEND, Saturday.—The Bogota, for Callao, left.

FREMANTLE, Friday.—The Orontes, from London; arrived, and left for Brisbane.

PLYMOUTH, Saturday.—The Chiskoe left.

TABLE BAY, Wednesday.—The Hirano Maru, for Japan, left.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday.—The Alban, from Galveston, arrived.

"THE BALKAN NEWS."

OUR SOLDIERS' DAILY PAPER AT SALONIKA.

A Yarmouth soldier at Salonika has sent home a copy of a small four-page daily paper, printed in English, and entitled the *Balkan News*.

One article states that "We are enjoying a rest. There can be no doubt about this, because we have been told we are on high authority. When the British soldier has been into trenches and out again, with an occasional battle to break the monotony, for a period of fifteen months, he always gets a rest.

"To a rest two things are indispensable. (1) Mud. (2) A nine hours day. Only a few days ago we did not know this. When they told us we were going to be rested, though we did not believe it for a moment, we imagined the rest consisted in long hours of sleep, warm, comfortable billets, perhaps a dinner or a matinée now and again, and a few bright, brief, and brotherly parades.

"For two days we lay in a condition of bleak and comatose resignation while our complaints passed through the usual official channels to the usual official terminus. On the third day we received our program. It provided for nine hours' military training per diem—with intervals for meals, for there is this generosity in their justice: we are not required to do the nine hours straight off. This routine began at daybreak and ended at dusk."

THE DAY BEFORE.

GERMANY'S NORTH SEA FRONTIER.

THE STRENGTH OF HELIGOLAND.

An interesting description of Heligoland and of life on the island in pre-war days, with a review of the history of the now famous fortress was given by Mr. William George Black, LL.D., in a lecture delivered under the auspices of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Dr. Black has made a special study of Heligoland and the Frisian Islands, which he has visited almost every year for about three decades. Mr. A. E. Maylard presided at the meeting, and there was a large attendance. Dr. Black said that the secret of the cession of Heligoland to Germany lay in Parliamentary ignorance of European geography on the part of Britain. All political parties were alike responsible for it. Lord Salisbury had only carried out a policy which had been long advocated by leading men of the opposite party. The acquisition of Heligoland with the fortresses at Borkum opposite the mouth of the Ems and at Sylt had enabled Germany to make her North Sea frontier practically impenetrable, so that Holland, Britain, and Denmark had all been made to contribute to Germany's strength. Heligoland was an outpost of the Empire which was of incalculable value to Britain, even if it had not been fortified. Germany's policy had been to make the defenceless island we retained it, because in that event, even if Germany had taken it at the beginning of the war, it would have been of very little use to them. It was the fortification of the island which Germany had been carrying on by years of careful work since 1890 that made the place so formidable. It was an outpost for German submarines and was also invaluable as a sea-observatory. The rock of the island had been honeycombed with passages during the German occupation so that guns could be moved from place to place without observation. Heligoland and the North Frisian Islands, Dr. Black added, belonged ethnologically and by language more to the English-Saxon family than to the main German continental group. The people of these islands had maintained numerous peculiarities in dress, language, law, and habits. Dr. Black was accorded a vote of thanks for his lecture.

HELIGOLAND IN WAR-TIME.

FEAR OF BRITISH ATTACK.

According to a writer in *Chambers's Journal*, Heligoland is in a state of "nervy" expectancy. In all directions torpedo craft with lights out cross each other, recross, and interchange signals incessantly, being on tenterhooks meanwhile through fear of British submarines and fleet above-water craft. Lights, bells, horns, send signals that are constantly answered by flashes from the air. Approaches to Heligoland at night are kept in pitchy darkness, and the whole routine of rigorous precaution is never relaxed. No civilians are seen ashore, certain former civilian engineers and skilled artisans only whose services are required being attached to the garrison, or, rather, to the German Admiralty, in whose hands the fortress now is. The only females allowed in it are some half-dozen nurses belonging to the hospital staff.

But from morning to night the work of improving the fortifications goes uninterruptedly on. The Krupp guns are being mounted with their heavy guns, though of a different thickness and calibre from those of Liège and Antwerp, are no longer depended upon, not being considered capable of replying effectually to the 15-inch guns of the Queen Elizabeth and her consorts, and they have therefore been superseded by the heaviest fortress weapons Krupp turns out both in guns and howitzers. All fear of danger from the air—reasonable enough no doubt so far as the future is concerned—is evidenced by the numerous and powerful anti-aircraft guns and the system of giant searchlights worked in connection with these. In fact, all the lessons learnt in the Russian campaign and the failure at the Dardanelles are being carefully utilised here; whilst the whole island seems filled with the naval officers, seamen, and marines composing the garrison.

HOW ERZERUM FELL.

GREAT RUSSIAN ASSAULT.

A FIERCE RESISTANCE.

The Russian Headquarters Staff has issued the following:—

The Turkish Headquarters, in its *communiqué* of February 21, states that the retreat of the Turkish Army from Erzerum towards positions to the west of that fortress was effected in the night of February 15. Luxes abandoned in that fortress only 50 old guns, which they could not remove. At the same time the Turkish Headquarters denies statements alleged to have been disseminated by the Russians of the capture in Erzerum of 1,000 guns and 80,000 prisoners.

The same Turkish *communiqué* declares that Erzerum was really not a fortress, but merely an open town with fortifications devoid of any military value. In view of these assertions the Russian General Staff announces that the fortress of Erzerum was the only fortified point in the interior of Asia Minor protecting Western Armenia and Anatolia, and commanding all the best roads of the Transcaucasia and the interior of Asia Minor. For many years past great improvements had been carried out in the works by the Turks with the assistance of the Germans.

The terrain in front rendered it naturally strong. To the south it was covered by the Kara-bagh mountain ranges most difficult of approach, and with their passes protected by powerful forts. Such was the formidable barrier on the path of our offensive with numerous defensive advantages on the north-east and east.

During the five days' assault the fortress was defended by the Turks with a stubbornness to which the enormous quantity of killed and bodies gives ample testimony. The Caucasus army succeeded in surmounting steep mountains protected by wire entanglements and other defences, and assaulted the fortress after an artillery preparation.

The assault on the 15th on the principal position lasted from February 11 till February 15 inclusive. After we had taken the forts on the left flank of the principal Turkish line of defence, extending 40 versts (about 27 miles), the fate of the forts in the centre and on the right flank, and after them of the second line forts and the principal defensive position, was decided on Sunday, the 15th, after short attacks. These fortifications, which were full of Turkish dead, remained in our possession. During the assault on the fortress several Turkish regiments were annihilated or made prisoners, with all their officers.

On the line of forts alone we took 197 pieces of artillery of various calibre in good condition. In the defence works of the central fortress we took

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GERMAN NAMES IN RUSSIA.

BALTIC BARONS SENT TO SIBERIA.

A DRASTIC POLICY.

The latest Russian papers to hand announce that M. Starmer, the new Russian Premier, has decided to adopt the name of his wife, and to call himself henceforth Panin. A similar proceeding was adopted a short time ago by M. Sabler, the ex-Procurator of the Holy Synod. M. Neidhardt, the well-known leader of the Conservatives in the Council of the Empire, and numerous other dignitaries of the Empire, civil and military, who by reason of their ancient German descent had borne German sounding names.

This movement in the highest "circles" (writes a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*) has its parallel in the humbler classes of society, where everybody and everything even remotely connected with Russia's enemy is ostracised by the public, if not directly by the authorities. Thus, following the example of the capital, a number of Russian cities and towns bearing names of German derivation have either already adopted or are petitioning for new Russian names. Schlusselburg, for instance, has already ceased to exist. The maps will henceforth mark the place where it stood "Dreshev." Little Neuhof, under which name it was known at the time of Peter the Great. "It was a hard nut to crack, but we did it," was his jest in the message to the Empress announcing the capture of the place from the Swedes. Peterhof was also called Petrodvor, Oranienbaum Rainbov, Reval Kolyvan, and Ekaterinburg Ekaterinburgad. In many towns and even whole provinces the use of German is prohibited by the authorities, and the streets has been prohibited by the authorities, and the streets has been prohibited by the authorities, and the streets has been

The Irish Times.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1916.

Verdun.

The character of the latest German effort before Verdun is not easy to determine while we have only the scanty evidence afforded by yesterday's *communiqués* in our possession. The attack is concentrated almost wholly against the plateau of Douaumont, and it is the most obvious assumption that it is intended, as the first great effort was intended, to break through the French line. Douaumont, as the dominating spur of the line of heights on which the French are disposed, is the key to the whole Verdun position. The French are now fighting on their chosen line of resistance. That phase of the battle which was occupied by successive retiring manœuvres from the advanced positions is now over. The decision of this great battle will be reached on the definitive French line of resistance of which Douaumont is the centre. If the Douaumont plateau should be lost, the whole Verdun position will be lost with it. For these reasons, then, it is the most obvious assumption that the present attack, concentrated on the Douaumont plateau, is a continuation of the first effort designed to take Verdun. But there are factors in the situation which suggest that this obvious assumption may be false. In the first place, a semi-official statement issued in Paris declares positively that "outside the Verdun sector the enemy has evinced his intention to keep on the defensive along the whole line." Such a statement is not likely to be issued without very ample evidence to warrant it. But all competent military opinion has hitherto taken it for granted that, in accordance with all previous experience of German strategy, the thrust at Verdun would be accompanied by a thrust at some other part of the line; and we have been waiting since the thrust at Verdun began for the disclosure of the rest of the enemy's offensive intentions. In these circumstances, if, as the French semi-official statement positively declares, the Germans have reverted to the defensive all along the remainder of the front, the presumption is strong that they have abandoned their hope of achieving a conclusive success at Verdun. In the next place, the nature of the latest attacks on the Douaumont plateau is such that their continuance is capable of being reconciled with an abandonment by the Germans of their major designs. There is no evidence that these assaults on the Douaumont plateau were prefaced by the intense artillery preparation which has invariably preceded an attempt intended to be decisive. The evidence, indeed, is in the other direction. Yesterday's German *communiqué* reports an increase in the French artillery activity, and abstains in a marked manner from any suggestion that a great enterprise on the enemy's part is afoot. We are led to the assumption that these local attacks on the Douaumont plateau do not mean a revival of the great effort to break the French line, but have a purely local significance. A well-defined local objective for these attacks is not difficult to discover. The Douaumont plateau is not only the key to the whole French position; it is also the place where the remnant of the Brandenburg regiment is invested in the dismantled fort, which it captured a week ago to the accompaniment of a prodigious flourish of trumpets. It looks very much as though in these attacks the Germans were concerned only with the narrower significance of the Douaumont plateau. The capture of the Brandenburgers holding out in the fort by the French would be an advertisement of defeat which the Germans could not possibly explain away. It is extravagant, no doubt, to sacrifice several thousand men in order to rescue a few hundreds; but there is at stake a moral issue which, in the German view, would justify the sacrifice. The conclusion which may be reached from these scraps of evidence, then, is that the present very desperate fighting on the narrow plateau of Douaumont involves nothing more than a German attempt to relieve the Brandenburgers invested in the dismantled fort, and a French attempt to prevent their relief. Such a theory does not, of course, exclude the possibility that, if a striking local success should be achieved by the Germans, the main effort against Verdun might be reopened with full violence. But at present it is difficult to regard the Germans' activity as involving any effort on the same grandiose scale as the effort of last week. In any case, there is no reason to fear that the unshaken confidence of the French in a victorious issue is misplaced.

INSPECTION BY THE KING.

The King inspected at Buckingham Palace on Saturday a section of the Royal Naval Air Service with their anti-aircraft guns.

INVESTITURE BY THE KING.

The King held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace on Saturday, when he personally decorated some 34 naval and military officers and Red Cross nurses for distinguished service during the campaign. The decorations included five Victoria Crosses, a K.C.B., D.S.O.'s, Military Crosses, Distinguished Service Crosses, and Royal Red Crosses. The King heartily congratulated each V.C.

PREMIER BETTER.

Mr. Asquith, who has almost entirely shaken off the effects of his recent indisposition, left 10 Downing street on Saturday afternoon to spend his week-end in the country as usual.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The Navy Estimates for 1916-17 were issued on Saturday in skeleton form. For the different departments in effective and non-effective services only nominal amounts of £1,100 are given, the grand total of the gross estimate being £18,700.

MR. CHURCHILL TO SPEAK.

The Press Association is informed that Colonel Winston Churchill, M.P., will speak on the Naval Estimates in the House of Commons on Tuesday next.

HOME FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS.

Mr. William Cain, Chairman Robert Cain and Sons, Mersey Brewery, Liverpool, has offered the Government his residence, Wilton Grange, West Kirby, as a home for permanently disabled soldiers. This is one of the finest mansions in Cheshire. Built a few years ago, it cost twenty-five thousand pounds. Mr. Cain's sole motive is to provide a comfortable home for broken soldiers, with every care and attention. Four years ago Mr. Cain and his brother Charles offered the Government two aeroplanes.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

153 FLEET STREET, LONDON,
SATURDAY NIGHT.

The French have held up the German advance at Verdun, and it is reported from Paris to-night that there have been no fresh infantry attacks by the enemy. This is rather significant. It would seem that the Germans have no longer dense masses of men waiting to take their turn to be shot down in mass formation, but find it necessary to make preparations for every attack. Not only has the German advance been stopped for the moment, but the French have taken the initiative in attacking the village of Douaumont and the German lines. The Germans admit this attack, though the admission is qualified by the statement that the French were repulsed at close range, and lost a number of prisoners. From these indications it may fairly be assumed that the situation at Verdun remains good for the French, and that the Germans are as far off a great victory as ever.

The special correspondent of the *Evening News* at Pontarlier states to-day that the German losses at Verdun in dead and wounded amount to two hundred thousand, whole battalions having been wiped out by the French machine guns and artillery. Not a syllable about the losses is allowed to appear in the German Press.

The capture of Bitlis by the Russians is the result of a fortnight's hard and stubborn fighting. It is supposed that the Russians encountered troops forming the rearguard of the retreat from Erzerum, reinforced by those stationed at Bitlis. The town itself lies in a ravine, but there are perfect natural defences in the steep heights on both sides. It is a most important victory, for the possession of Bitlis cuts the connection between the Turks in Armenia and those carrying on operations in the neighbourhood of Lake Urmia in Persia. It means also that any Turkish troops going to Mesopotamia must begin to be uneasy for the safety of their communications.

It seems that the action of President Wilson and the subsequent vote of the United States Senate has given rise to considerable war excitement in New York. Many business houses and shipping companies are taking steps to preserve their interest in case of war, while in the hotels and public places wagers are being made on the chances of the United States entering into the conflict. In Germany the same feeling prevails, and the Frankfort Bourse, which invariably reflects news affecting German high finance, yesterday closed in a condition of panic on the wireless messages from the United States emphasising the gravity of the situation.

After the announcement that Colonel Churchill would make an important speech on Tuesday, when the Naval Estimates are under discussion, there comes the intimation that Mr. Balfour will also make a speech of the utmost interest and importance, and that a debate of considerable dimensions will follow. All these preliminary flourishes are very interesting, and may portend that the debate will really be one of importance. If so, the interest is scarcely likely to arise out of the subject matter of the debate, for Mr. Balfour is a past master in the art of keeping the naval secrets dark. The votes to be taken are known as "token" votes for merely nominal sums.

On the resolution for going into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates, Sir Thomas Esmonde will move the following resolution:—"That the pay of midshipmen in His Majesty's Navy is inadequate and ought to be increased." That pay, it may be added, is 1s. 9d. *per* day, and from this 1s. 6d. is deducted for messing and other expenses. Their income is generally eked out by allowances from their relations, but the middies are a large body now, and no longer belong almost wholly to the well-to-do classes as in days gone by. Thus in many cases the giving of the allowance is a real strain to the relations.

The first call to the married men attested under the Derby scheme was posted throughout London to-day, forty thousand posters having been distributed from Great Scotland Yard for use in the metropolis alone. The proclamation calls out groups 25 to 32—men aged from 19 to 26. The notice is printed on blue paper in black type, and the first date for the men to present themselves is April 7. A private conference of municipal and housing representatives will be held in London on Wednesday to consider what steps can be taken to assist married men called to the Colours in keeping their homes together. It has been convened under the auspices of the National Housing and Town Planning Council with a view to drafting a scheme to be submitted to the Local Government Board. Mr. Aldridge, the Secretary, states that the *moratorium* proposed has the disadvantage that a load of debt will accumulate during the time the man is serving. It has been estimated that in France the arrears of soldiers' rent amount already to £3,200,000.

The meeting of the Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark is, in all probability, a sequel to the meeting of the three Scandinavian Monarchs in 1914 to arrange for unity of action by their countries towards the belligerent Powers. Sweden is said to have certain grievances against this country, and the Swedish Minister has just gone to Stockholm to discuss them with his Government. Probably they are in connection with our blockade of Germany, and may be settled without any great difficulty. In any case, Sweden will certainly recognise that the situation would have been very different for her if Germany ruled the seas, and not Great Britain. She has had sufficient opportunities to judge.

In the United States lack of ocean transport facilities is being felt quite as much as in the countries of the old. The Order in Council issued here forbidding British vessels without specific licence to clear from one neutral port to another has, to all appearances, interfered seriously with the trade of the world; but such action was absolutely necessary. In the States several of the railway companies are now refusing to accept goods for shipment abroad, and thousands of tons of material for use overseas are lying in warehouses or on the quays at New York with little prospect of immediate shipment. In the meantime every shipbuilding yard in the States is hard at work, and it is impossible to order a vessel for delivery in less than two years.

Mr. Forster will be asked on Wednesday if he will procure a report as to the urgency and expediency of establishing a receiving *dépôt* in Dublin for all supplies made in Ireland for their War Office superintendent in Dublin and the south of Ireland, and whether the War Office will give full consideration and effect to such report when received.

VERDUN BATTLE RESUMED.

FRENCH ATTACK AT DOUAUMONT.

DESPERATE FIGHT FOR THE VILLAGE.

EBB AND FLOW OF THE BATTLE.

ENORMOUS GERMAN LOSSES.

General Sir Douglas Haig on Saturday reported sharp grenade fighting near Vermelles, and an unsuccessful attempt by the Germans to capture some mine craters there.

The French afternoon despatch stated that a fairly active bombardment by the Germans on Friday night in the Verdun region was not followed up by any infantry action. On the rest of the front there was the usual cannonade.

The evening despatch stated that a desperate fight is taking place for possession of the village of Douaumont, and that the tide of battle ebbs and flows from hour to hour. A strong German attack east of Poivre Hill melted away under the French machine-gun and infantry fire.

The Germans describe an attack by the French on the village of Douaumont and the adjoining enemy lines, which was "partly repulsed," leaving 1,000 prisoners behind. They also speak of the defeat of a French attempt to retake positions captured from them in Alsace on February 13th.

BRITISH REPORT.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, MARCH 4th, 9.12 P.M.

During last night and early this morning there was sharp grenade fighting in some mine craters north-east of Vermelles. The enemy bombarded our trenches while trying to capture the craters. All the craters remained in our hands.

Situation elsewhere normal.

FRENCH REPORTS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)
PARIS, SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The bombardment, which continued fairly active in the course of the night in the different sectors of the Verdun region, was not followed by any infantry action on the part of the enemy.

At Les Eparges (15 miles south-east of Verdun) we prevented the enemy from occupying a crater formed by the explosion of one of his mines.

Nothing to report from the rest of the front apart from the usual cannonade.

11 P.M.

In Artois an enemy attack, with the object of driving us from the crater which we were occupying near the road from Neuville to La Folie, was repulsed.

In the Argonne we cannonaded the German organisations in the region south-east of Vauquois, and demolished several shelters.

In the Verdun region there was a very violent cannonade all day on the left bank of the Meuse at Hill 304 and at the Ois Hill.

On the right bank, the enemy, after an intense bombardment directed against the Haudrommont Wood, east of the Poivre Hill, launched on our positions an attack which was stopped by our machine gun and infantry fire.

The Germans had succeeded in gaining a footing in the village of Douaumont, from which we had driven them yesterday evening by a counter-attack.

Desperate fighting continues, with alternations of ebb and flow, for the possession of the village.

In the Woevre there was moderate activity on the part of the opposing artilleries.

In Lorraine, in the region of Thionville ponds, after artillery preparation, we carried several elements of enemy trenches. Sixty prisoners, including an officer, and two machine guns and a trench mortar remained in our hands.

SEMI-OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

FRENCH ARMY CONFIDENT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
PARIS, SATURDAY.

A semi-official statement issued late last night says:—

Outside the Verdun sector the enemy has evinced his intention to keep on the defensive along the whole line. The Germans entered Douaumont village on Thursday evening.

Vigorous counter-attacks on Friday afternoon enabled the French to regain ground in the immediate outskirts of the village. The neighbouring redoubt was still firmly in the French possession. Everywhere else the enemy's attacks were repulsed with sanguinary losses. Our confidence in the victorious issue of this gigantic conflict is unshaken.

GERMAN REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The official *communiqué* published in Berlin to-day says:—The fighting around Ypres has come to a standstill for the present. The position which we held before February 14 is firmly maintained by us. A bastion remained in the hands of the enemy. In Champagne vigorous artillery fighting continued yesterday. In the Argonne a small enemy attack failed.

On both banks of the Meuse the enemy has increased his artillery activity, and after considerably heavier firing attacked the village of Douaumont and our adjoining lines. He was partly repulsed in hand-to-hand fighting with considerable losses, besides leaving over a thousand prisoners in our hands. After the clearing of the battlefield the booty in the fighting since February 22nd has been increased from thirty-seven guns and seventy-five machine guns to 115 guns and 161 machine guns.

Near Obersep, north-west of Pfirt (Alsace) the enemy unsuccessfully attempted to retake positions which we captured on February 13th. In their first attack some portions entered our trenches, but were at once ejected by our counter-attacks. Owing to our curtain fire the repeated enemy attacks only partially developed. With the loss of many dead and wounded and over eighty prisoners the enemy were obliged to retreat to their own positions.

FOURTH GERMAN WAR LOAN.

"EVERYONE MUST PAY."

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, MARCH 4.

The *Koelnische Volkszeitung* contains a large advertisement of the Fourth War Loan, interspersed with a profusion of leaded type. Among the various headings are the following:—

"The Fourth War Loan is to be subscribed. Everyone can, everyone should, everyone must pay." "Out with the silver bullets. Out with all the money that serves only for enjoyment and not for vital needs." "Everyone must pay, even the smallest everyone can pay."

A Sydney telegram states that Leo D'Arcy the boxer has announced his intention of joining the aviation corps.

GREAT GERMAN LOSSES.

HEAPS OF DEAD AND WOUNDED.

STORIES OF GERMAN PRISONERS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
PARIS, MARCH 4.

Although it is not possible to estimate exactly the German losses during the last few days, all the evidence agrees that they were very great at certain points of the Verdun front. The German newspapers half confess it, but the German prisoners admit it freely, and even give details.

A prisoner of the 10th company of the 12th Infantry Regiment, for example, made the following statement:—"On February 21st, before my company was engaged, it numbered 200 rifles. Twenty-four hours later it was reduced to one officer and 70 men. It is a miracle that my companion and myself escaped the massacre. The artillery fire and the precision of the French infantry fire caused similar ravages in almost all the rest of our companies."

On the night of the 25th the 105th Infantry Regiment, belonging to the 30th German Division, took up its position for attack. A prisoner who belonged to this unit says:—"On the 26th three battalions attempted an attack against the Bois Chaufour. The French allowed us to advance, and then suddenly launched against us such a terrible machine-gun fire that whole ranks were mowed down. We were completely taken in the flank. There was a moment of hesitation, which was fatal to us. The ground was covered with corpses. Then the regiment swayed, scattered, and escaped as best it could, with enormous losses. I had barely time to throw myself flat on the ground and pretend to be dead. During the night I crept towards the wood, but I had so completely lost my way that I could not find my company again. I wandered about for two days, and it was only on the morning of the 29th that a French patrol found me, and brought me into your lines."

Another prisoner of the 24th Regiment tells pretty much the same story. "On the 27th," he says, "a battalion was ordered to carry the wood to the east of Fort Douaumont, on the left of our regiment. Companies of the 3rd Battalion of the German Jagers supported the attack. We succeeded in crossing the edge of the wood, but it was impossible to go any further. The French machine guns began to crackle on all sides, and very clever cross-fires held us up completely, and obliged us to beat a retreat. But at what a price! Two-thirds of our numbers were killed or wounded. My comrades were unable to disengage me from where I lay, and thus on the evening of the 27th I fell into your hands."

The attacks made yesterday against the village of Douaumont also cost the Germans very dearly. A captain of the *Chasseurs-à-Pied* gave the following account of the fighting in which he took part:—"The Germans on March 2 attempted, on a front of five kilometres, a furious attack, of which Douaumont was the principal objective. Units of two division, which had newly arrived on this front hurled themselves against our troops at 4 o'clock in the afternoon after an unprecedented artillery fire. I must say that the enemy displayed the most tenacious bravery, but our *Chasseurs* once more did honour to their name. The heaps of slain came right up to our barbed wire entanglements. Fighting at a short distance, and even hand-to-hand at some points, gave us the advantage. Nevertheless, the enemy came back to the charge with fresh companies at six o'clock, and the second engagement was as hot as the first, if not hotter. A little later I was wounded in the head by a splinter of shell. But, at any rate, before leaving the battlefield I was able to confirm the good work done by our *Chasseurs*, whose bulldog grip throughout these episodes was marvellous. Although we suffered considerable losses in the course of these actions, they were far less than those of the enemy."

IMPORTANCE OF VERDUN.

GERMANY'S LAST CARD AT STAKE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
PARIS, SATURDAY.

It becomes more and more evident, says Colonel Frusset in the *Liberte*, that results obtained by the enemy before Verdun correspond neither to the enormity of forces put in action nor to the frightful expenditure of men which they cost. He refers to the two days' terrible struggle which only resulted in the taking of the village of Douaumont, leaving all the rest of the plateau in possession of the French, and says:—In these conditions, the Crown Prince must recognise that he is not at the end of his task. The terrible battle is still in full swing, with the inevitable fluctuations. Germans are fighting with extreme desperation, and our soldiers display almost incredible powers of resistance. For the enemy it is a sort of last card, on which not only the prestige, but a great part of their previous gains, are at stake. If they fail, as we firmly hope, they will not be able to rise from this grave moral check, and it is quite possible that the *Gazette de Lausanne* is not wrong when it says that it is not only the future of Germany, but, perhaps, also the Monarchy and the dynasty which are at stake, under the walls of Verdun.

The military expert of the *Temps* writes:—The little ground which the enemy has gained at the price of such sacrifice in no wise compromises our line of defence. We still hold the plateau of Douaumont, and the heights south of Vaux, and we are preventing the German artillery from gaining access to the plain by which they might be able to pass towards Fleury. We are not able to believe that this great battle can end for the enemy otherwise than as a repulse. The ground on which he has been fighting offers too many resources for our troops, who are too numerous and too full of fight for the Germans ever to gain a victory. This battle of Verdun will be an instructive page in the history of fortresses in this war. The enemy has chosen, upon a long line stretching from the North Sea to Switzerland, the only point to attack us where there is a fortress, and the only point where he has gained a little success is where there is a fort.

GERMANY'S SUPERHUMAN EFFORT.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL.)
PARIS, SATURDAY.

The whole of the Press this morning expresses the opinion that the force which is driving the German battalions to the assault is born of weakness rather than of confidence. The soldiers whose corpses are being heaped up in their thousands are dying not for victory, but for advertisement, in order that the rich German *bourgeois* may make up his mind to drain the whole of his coffers. They are dying in order that the idea of a German peace may gain ground throughout the world. French soldiers, conscious of the true goal of their sacrifices, are fighting to win, and in the fury of the enemy's attack they see signs of his coming collapse.

In the *Petit Parisien*, Colonel Rousset says: We shall see the enemy once more writhe and twist, but these will be the last convulsions of a wild beast wounded unto death.

M. Stephen Pichon remarks in the *Petit Journal*:—Germany knows full well that time is working against her, that the longer the war lasts the stronger we become, and that exhaustion in this frightful struggle threatens us far less than her. The result is that she is prepared to make a superhuman to try to bring to a conclusion the adventure which she began, and upon which she would not embark if she had to begin things over again.

M. Clemenceau declares in the *Homme Enchaine*:—We are faced with the first signs of a great German strategic movement.

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS.

PRICES TO BE RAISED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, MARCH 4.

Owing to the increasing difficulties of newspaper business, the *Koelnische Volkszeitung* says that German newspapers will be obliged from April 1 to increase their monthly subscription rates by 15 per cent., and in many cases by 20 per cent.

THE CAUCASUS.

ANOTHER RUSSIAN SUCCESS.

TOWN OF BIJAR CAPTURED.

THE OCCUPATION OF BITLIS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)
PETROGRAD, SATURDAY.

The following *communiqué* was issued from the Russian Headquarters to-day:—

Caucasus and Persian Fronts.—We occupied after an engagement the town of Bijar, 70 versts north-west of Hamadan.

TURKISH DESPATCH.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The official *communiqué* issued in Constantinople to-day states:—

There are no reports of important changes from any of the theatres of war.

IMPORTANCE OF BITLIS.

PETROGRAD, SATURDAY.

It is announced that two Turkish divisions, reinforced by troops which had fled from Erzerum, were operating against the Russians on the Mush-Bitlis-Van line.

With the occupation of Bitlis the whole Van region passes into the hands of the Russians, and at the same time this success cuts in two the Turkish forces operating in the Mush region and those in the neighbourhood of Lake Urmia. The capture of Bitlis, following on that of Erzerum, means driving a second great wedge into the Turkish front. Turkish reinforcements coming from Mesopotamia will now be obliged to make a detour in order to join up with the Third Turkish Army.

BRITISH DIPLOMATIST'S VIEW.

Reuter's representative has had an interview with a British diplomatist whose intimate knowledge of the Near East enables him to speak with authority on the effect of the capture of Bitlis by the Russians. He says that the capture of Bitlis, following close on that of the fortress of Erzerum by the Russians, is an event of distinct importance. It goes to show that the Turkish reinforcements have failed to arrive in time to prevent this important centre falling into the hands of our Allies. The possession of Bitlis by the Russians constitutes a potential menace to the Bagdad railway. It is almost inconceivable that any attack on the Suez Canal can now materialise.

The capture of Bitlis may have saved some remnants of the Armenians and other Christians, but there can be but slender hope of this. The Turks will naturally make strenuous efforts to drive back the Russians in the Erzerum and Bitlis regions. The evacuation of the Dardanelles must facilitate the despatch of reinforcements to Eastern Asia Minor. The co-ordinated strategy of the Allies might prevent such a consummation, and thus bring about the fall of the Germanophil clique that dominates Turkey, and has dragged her into the war, and that will be held responsible for the failure by the Turkish population.

SITUATION IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

ENVER PASHA WOUNDED.

FALL OF BAGDAD EXPECTED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
ATHENS, SATURDAY.

Advices from a diplomatic source in Constantinople state that in an attempt on his life Enver Pasha has been wounded.

The Duke of Mecklenburg, in view of the gravity of the situation, has telegraphed to the Kaiser urging the despatch of reinforcements to Constantinople.

As the result of a fire, the Sivas powder magazine has exploded, causing considerable damage.

The fall of Bagdad is considered imminent.

ENVER PASHA AT JERUSALEM.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

A Constantinople telegram states that, according to the Palestine correspondent of a Turkish newsagency, Enver Pasha, accompanied by the Commanders of the Fourth Army, has just been to Jerusalem, where he visited the Omar Mosque and other holy places, including those of the Christians. He was greeted by the Greek patriarch, the local sheikhs, and other notable persons.

SOUTHERN FIELD OF WAR.

MINOR EVENTS.

ITALIAN DESPATCH.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)
ROME, SATURDAY.

To-day's official *communiqué* says:—

In the Lagarina Valley we repulsed minor enemy attacks near Mori. The enemy's artillery continued to be active in the Gorizia zone.

Our artillery achieved good results against enemy trenches and working parties at Podgora and Sabotino. The enemy's fire only did very slight damage.

AUSTRIAN REPORT.

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The official *communiqué* issued in Vienna to-day says:—

Italian Theatre of War.—No important events.

ITALIAN SOCIALISTS AND THE WAR.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
ROME, FRIDAY.

In the Chamber to-day Signor Turati, for the Official Socialists, demanded a vote on his request that the Estimates of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs should be discussed after the Estimate of Public Instruction. Signor Salandra, the Premier, replied deprecating at this juncture a discussion of foreign policy as undesirable in the interests of the country. Signor Bissolati intimated that he would vote against the proposal, though he desired a discussion at the proper moment, but not with the object of the official Socialists. On the contrary, he wished to co-operate with the Government towards the victorious issue of the war. (Loud Applause.)

The Chamber rejected Signor Turati's proposal by 268 votes against 40, there being three abstentions.

POPE AND THE WAR.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
ROME, SATURDAY.

The Pope has addressed a Pastoral Letter to the Cardinal Vicar of Rome on the occasion of the approaching Lent, in which he refers to the terrible and trying period the world is going through, the desirability of peace, and the necessity to implore it from the Lord with prayers, penance, and good works. His Holiness asks the Cardinal to urge the faithful to follow his behest.

BALKAN WAR THEATRE.

BULGARS OVER THE BORDER.

A VILLAGE ATTACKED.

A report from Athens states that a Bulgarian detachment, commanded by an officer, has crossed the neutral zone and attacked a Greek village. The Greek military authorities have the matter under consideration.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL.)
ATHENS, MARCH 1ST.

The chief of the Salonika gendarmerie states that a Bulgarian detachment, commanded by an officer, crossed the neutral zone near Matsikovo and attacked Aeoste. The incident, which only became known to-day, occurred on Saturday.

The military authorities are discussing the measures to be taken.

Incidents which have occurred on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier, the latest of which took place at Katsikovo, are irritating the public mind.

According to private advices, a former Rumanian Consul at Monastir was travelling to Bucharest, with his mother and child. The party were shamefully treated by the Bulgarian authorities. They were treated as prisoners during their journey, which, owing to purposely created difficulties, lasted twelve days, and they were subjected to many humiliations.

AUSTRIAN DESPATCH.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The official *communiqué* issued in Vienna to-day says:—

South-eastern theatre of war.—Quiet has now been established. We captured, near Durazzo, 34 Italian guns and 11,400 rifles.

THE SERBIAN ARMY.

BRITISH MILITARY MISSION.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
ROME, MARCH 3 (DELAYED).

The *Corriere d'Italia* says that General Taylor, Chief of the British Adriatic Mission, left Rome this morning for Corfu. Interviewed before his departure, General Taylor said that he went to London on January 29 in order to make arrangements for the creation of a new British Mission to the Serbian Army. This is the object of his present visit to Corfu. The Mission will be under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Garsia, at present General Taylor's Chief of Staff, and will be placed under the orders of General Mondesir, who is to command the French and British troops in the island, the Serbians remaining under the command of their own Generals.

KING FERDINAND'S HEALTH

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

A Vienna telegram regarding King Ferdinand's health says that the symptoms of bronchitis have been reduced to small proportions. The pulse and temperature are normal, but the King is still obliged to remain indoors.

SMYRNA FORTS BOMBED.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL.)
ATHENS, MARCH 1 (delayed).

According to advices received here, the expedition by seven French aeroplanes from Salonika, which bombarded the Smyrna forts on Monday, lasted twenty-four hours, covering a distance of 600 kilometres. One damaged machine dropped into the sea, and was rescued by an escorting torpedo boat. The extent of the damage caused by the aerial bombardment is unknown.

EASTERN FIELD OF WAR.

RUSSIAN REPORT.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL.)
PETROGRAD, SATURDAY.

The following *communiqué* was issued from the Russian Headquarters to-day:—

Western front.—On the Dwina between Dvinsk and Jacobstadt and near Illukst, our scouts made some successful observations.

More to the south and on the Galician front there has been the usual exchange of fire.

GERMAN DESPATCH.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The official *communiqué* published to-day in Berlin says:—

Eastern war theatre.—In minor fighting the Russians were ejected from their positions near Alsewit Schi, north-east of Baranowitchi.

AUSTRIAN DESPATCH.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

The official *communiqué* issued in Vienna to-day is as follows:—

Russian theatre of war.—In the Durno sector early yesterday morning Russians attempted to gain the left bank of the Ikwa, but were repulsed. Reports in the enemy Press, which repeatedly appear, of a great and successful progressing Russian offensive on the Dniester and near Czernowitz are, of course, completely untrue. There has been no change on our front for the past half-year.

GERMAN RULE IN BELGIUM.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, FRIDAY.

The *Echo de Belge* publishes a long list of sentences pronounced by several courtsmartial in Belgium for various offences, varying from inciting young Belgians of military age to disobedience or improper behaviour towards German authorities to expressing anti-German sentiment. Joseph Desrees and Mademoiselle Marguerite Blankaert, of Brussels, were each sentenced to ten months' imprisonment; Alexandre Daune, who had hidden escaped Russian officers, to two years' imprisonment, and Guillaume Bataille, who assisted Russian officers, to ten months' imprisonment. Five persons were sentenced to pay fines. At Liège, Maroll Mischel and Leon Godefried were sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment, Gustave van Hevlin to one month, Mdlle. Marthe Dalençon to six weeks', Joseph Biga to two weeks', Adrien Prove to two weeks', François Frederik to five days', and the Public Prosecutor, Walelle, to four months' imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 marks for their anti-German attitude.

The *Handelsblad* says that Marguerite Blankaert was sentenced to imprisonment for life, with hard labour, for treason in war time; Alexandre Daune, a Belgian ex-police officer, to two years' hard labour for issuing false passports, and Gustaaf Mignolet to one year's hard labour for hiding soldiers.

VON BISSING ILL.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
AMSTERDAM, FRIDAY.

According to the *Telegraaf*, a rumour is current at Turnhout that the Governor-General of Belgium, General von Bissing, is seriously ill. The *Telegraaf* adds that the report comes from a German source.

ECONOMIC CONFERENCE OF ALLIES.

Reuter's Agency learns that the French Government has issued an invitation for an economic conference of the Allies and the question of the representation of Great Britain is now under the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S VICTORY.

PRO-GERMAN HOPES DASHED.

MEANING OF SENATE VOTE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)
WASHINGTON, SATURDAY.

The debate on the armed merchant ship question was resumed in the Senate to-day. Mr. Lodge read a letter from Sir Cecil Spring Rice, denying the statement made in the course of yesterday's debate that during the Russo-Japanese war Great Britain set the precedent of warning Englishmen to keep off ships of the belligerents.

The hopes of the pro-German element here, which thought they could over-ride the wishes of President Wilson, have been considerably deflated by the result of yesterday's vote, when Senator Gore's resolution, demanding legislation warning Americans not to sail in armed merchant ships of belligerents, was killed.

Their confusion is heightened by the knowledge that the overwhelming mass of the people is standing solidly behind the President, and by the fact that the House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs has voted by seventeen to two to bring Mr. McLemore's resolution—on the same lines as Mr. Gore's—out of Committee on Saturday with a strong recommendation that it should be treated in a similar manner.

Administration leaders are confident that the House of Representatives will grant complete victory to the President, thus making it clear to the pro-German propagandists here and the Executive alone will be permitted to deal with the controversy between Germany and the United States.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY.

According to an Associated Press despatch from Washington, the leaders in the House of Representatives have decided not to bring the question of armed merchantmen for a vote until Monday.

MEANING OF THE VOTE.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY.

This morning's newspaper comment on yesterday's vote in the Senate on Mr. Gore's armed merchantmen resolution is fully bypassed by that of the *New York World*, which says:—The Senate has declared in substance that the capital of the United States is Washington and not Berlin; that the President and not Wilson and not Wilhelm; and that the foreign affairs of the United States are still in the hands of the President and not in the hands of the Kaiser.

PRESIDENT'S REPORTED RESIGNATION.

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY.

In view of the published reports that President Wilson is considering the question of resigning because of the strain of the present situation, the following statement was issued from the White House to-day:—

"Any American newspaper that would publish such a story in a situation like the present, which now confronts America, discredits itself."

AMERICA PROCRASTINATES.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)
WASHINGTON, SATURDAY.

Delay in presenting the warning message to the House of Representatives, it is explained, is due to the desire of the Administration that the action of the Senate and House should be in such a form as to make clearly the decisive sentiment of Congress. The fact that the leaders of the House were deferring on the rules in Committee this afternoon indicates that the actual date may possibly be deferred beyond Monday.

GERMANY AND BRITISH ADMIRALTY.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL.)
AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

A Berlin telegram replies to the statement issued by the British Admiralty regarding German Government's interpretation of the instructions issued to British armed merchantmen as being of an offensive character. The communication says that this interpretation is mystifying. It adds that the German Government appended to its memorandum on the subject a photographic *facsimile* of the instructions which were found on British ships, so that every unprejudiced person can form his own judgment.

FRENCH COMMENT.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL.)
PARIS, SATURDAY.

The French Review says:—

The French Press is full of praise of the far-sightedness and loftiness of the views of President Wilson and the American Senate.

Regarding the vote in the Senate, the *Matin de Paris* says:—The rejection of the armed merchantmen resolution is a triumph for the President, a valuable tonic for the prestige of the United States.

The *Matin* remarks that the Press of the United States has thrust into the background the intention of the Germanophiles. The Senate has given remarkable proof of its far-sightedness and its patriotism. It will have considerable repercussion, not only among the Allies, who have never doubted its sympathies, but also, and especially, among neutrals. The equanimity may have been disturbed by Germany's ardent campaign.

RACE FOR LIFE.

BRITISH CREW BEATS GERMAN SUBMARINE.

At the Liverpool Town Hall on Saturday the Lord Mayor, in the presence of a large company, presented money gifts to Captain Dowse and the officers, engineers, and crew of the Ellerman-Hall liner City of Marseilles in recognition of their bravery on 22nd November, when they fought and escaped from an enemy submarine in the Mediterranean. The money distributed amounted to £485, and was subscribed by the War Risks Association of the Ellerman-Hall Line and the Committee of Lloyd's.

When off the south coast of Sardinia on the morning of 22nd November, the City of Marseilles, which had 178 passengers on board, sighted an enemy submarine about four miles off, apparently making for the ship. Captain Dowse gave instructions to put on all steam and manœuvred his steamer so as to keep the submarine astern. The submarine opened fire, to which the City of Marseilles replied with her gun, and after a running fight of about 20 minutes the submarine gave up the chase. Although shells burst about the steamer no one was injured.

Sir Norman Hill, in asking the Lord Mayor to make the presentations, said we were threatened with a new campaign of frightfulness, but, come what may, pirates could not resort to more brutal and ungroveling methods than they had practised in the past. While we had seamen such as those of the City of Marseilles, we could rest assured that the new campaign would fail absolutely, as all other attempts of the enemy had failed to attain any military, advantage at sea. (Loud applause.)

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MEANING OF THE VOTE.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY.

This morning's newspaper comment on yesterday's vote in the Senate on Mr. Gore's armed merchantmen resolution is fully typified by that of the *New York World*, which says:—The Senate has declared in substance that the capital of the United States is Washington, and not Berlin; that the President is still Mr. Wilson and not Wilhelm; and that the foreign affairs of the United States are still in the hands of the President and not in the hands of the Kaiser.

PRESIDENT'S REPORTED RESIGNATION.

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY.

In view of the published reports that President Wilson is considering the question of resigning because of the strain of the foreign situation, the following statement was made from the White House to-day:—

"Any American newspaper that would publish such a story in a situation like the one which now confronts America dishonours itself."

AMERICA PROCRASTINATES

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY.

Delay in presenting the warning resolution to the House of Representatives, it is explained, is due to the desire of the Administration that the action of the leaders in the House should be in such a form as to avoid clearly the declaration of sentiment desired. The fact that the leaders of the House were conferring on the rules in Committee this afternoon indicates that the actual date may possibly be deferred beyond Monday.

GERMANY AND BRITISH ADMIRALTY.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL.)

AMSTERDAM, SATURDAY.

A Berlin telegram replies to the statement issued by the British Admiralty refuting German Government's interpretation of instructions issued to British armed merchantmen as being of an offensive character. The German communication says that this explanation is mystifying. It adds—The German Government appended to its memorandum on the subject a photographic *fac-simile* of the instructions which were found on British vessels, so that every unprejudiced person can form his own judgment.

FRENCH COMMENT.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL.)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

The French Review says:—

The French Press is full of praise for the far-sightedness and loftiness of the views of President Wilson and the American Senate.

Regarding the vote in the Senate, the *Journal de Paris* says:—The rejection of the Gore resolution is a triumph for the President and a valuable tonic for the prestige of the United States.

The *Matin* remarks that the President of the United States has thrust into the face of the intention of the Germanophiles. Senate has given remarkable proof of its far-sightedness and its patriotism. It will have considerable repercussion, not only in Europe, but also, and especially, among neutrals, whose equanimity may have been disturbed by many's ardent campaign.

RACE FOR LIFE.

BRITISH CREW BEATS GERMAN SUBMARINE.

At the Liverpool Town Hall on Saturday the Lord Mayor, in the presence of the company, presented money gifts to Captain Dowse and the officers, engineers, and crew of the Ellerman-Hall liner City of Marseilles, in recognition of their bravery on 22nd November, when they fought and escaped from an enemy submarine in the Mediterranean. The money distributed amounted to £455, and was subscribed by the War Risks Association of the Ellerman-Hall Line, and the Committee of Lloyd's.

When off the south coast of Sardinia on the morning of 22nd November, the City of Marseilles, which had 174 passengers on board, sighted an enemy submarine about four miles off, apparently making for the ship. Captain Dowse gave instructions to put on all steam and manœuvred his steamer so as to keep the submarine astern. The submarine opened fire on which the City of Marseilles replied with her gun, and after a running fight of about 20 minutes the submarine gave up the chase. Although shells burst about the steamer no one was injured.

Sir Norman Hill, in asking the Lord Mayor to make the presentations, said we were threatened with a new campaign of frightfulness, but, come what may, pirates could not resort to more brutal and ungroveling methods in future than they had practised in the past. While we had seamen such as those of the City of Marseilles, we could rest assured that the new campaign would fail absolutely, as all other attempts of the enemy had failed to attain any military advantage at sea.

(Applause.)

ITALIAN STEAMER SUNK.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

ATHENS, SATURDAY.

A British steamer has arrived at the Piræus with forty-four men picked up on a raft after opposing the crew of the Italian steamer *Ancona*, which was torpedoed by an Austrian submarine.

STEAMER IN DISTRESS.

A Lloyd's Dover message, dated Saturday, says:—The first mate and four men of the steamer Arundo, of and from Rotterdam for Rivers Plate, in ballast, were landed at Dover by a pilot cutter. They report that the Arundo was anchored in the Gulf of Sidra, near her in the lifeboat to go to the assistance of a steamer burning signals of distress, but failed to reach her, being driven away by the heavy weather. They were afterwards picked up, and landed as stated.

FROM TO-DAY'S LONDON PAPERS.

SIR WM. ROBERTSON'S VERDICT ON VERDUN.

The results of the fighting round Verdun are regarded with the greatest satisfaction by British General Staff, writes the Political correspondent of the *Weekly Dispatch*. Sir William Robertson, the Chief of Staff at the War Office, has expressed himself as extremely pleased with the situation.

"The magnificent bravery of the French troops has so completely shattered the plans of the enemy that so far the battle of Verdun resembles to a very severe defeat for the Germans, who have lost enormous numbers of the best men remaining in the armies.

CLIMAX STILL TO COME.

"Verdun is still held by one of the sternest achievements of defence in the annals of war, but the fight which still thwarts the German plan is only a prelude to greater battles on the main fronts, and to the final test at last—so writes Mr. Garvin, in the *Observer*.

WHAT RUSSIA THINKS.

A telegraphing from Petrograd on Saturday, the London *Observer's* own correspondent says:—The Russians are watching the struggle for Verdun with strained interest—not merely with interest mingled of sympathising spectators, but also of participants. The question they sum up is: "After Verdun, what next?" It must be emphasised that the results of the struggle so far have aroused here a growing conviction that what would be good neither for the interest nor for his own repute.

SOURCE OF REVENUE.

"There is good reason to believe, says the military Correspondent of the *Weekly Dispatch*, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when considering the advisability of increasing the forthcoming Budget a tax on advertisements of all descriptions. The decided upon, would apply, in particular, to—

Advertisements on hoardings.
Advertising enamel plates on railways.
Advertisements in railway trains and public

"Such a tax has existed for some years in France, and has worked very successfully.

INCREASED COST OF NOVELS.

"It is probable that, owing to the increased cost of paper and materials, the price of many novels will shortly be raised to 7s. 6d," says the *News of the World*.

MILITARY CALL TO MARRIED MEN.

A Special article in the *Weekly Dispatch* by Mr. Hamilton O'Grady, M.P., says:—The War Office continue to say that they need men, and are fully convinced that at least 70 per cent. of the married men who have not yet joined would come into the Derby group if they had a Government guarantee in the shape of a *moratorium* that their homes would not suffer.

SUPER GIRL CLERK.

A super-girl clerk, earning £350 a year, has given her appearance in the City of London, says the *Weekly Dispatch*. She is said to be the best paid woman clerk in London. The position she occupies is that of foreign clerk in a big bank. Her business is that of being constantly posted up in the rates of international money values, and of acting as a trained mind, with a particularly well-developed mathematical bent.

THE HIDDEN PERIL.

The report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases will come as a rude shock to persons who think that an ostrich-like policy is possible in dealing (or, rather, not dealing) with this terrible curse of civilisation, says *Reynolds's Newspaper*. Take one person in every ten in London afflicted with the most loathsome of the diseases, for the percentage of cases of venereal disease "must greatly exceed proportion." The nation is roused to Prussianism. But here is a peril more deadly than a Prussian invasion. It can no longer be ignored.

GENERAL TELEGRAMS.

The Stockton tribunal on Saturday adjourned the case of Mr. Ivan Lubbock, who is a British subject, applying for exemption on the ground that he was a naturalised Russian and had sole charge of the lions and two wolves belonging to Bostock and Wombwell's travelling menagerie. Exemption for three months was granted.

Mr. Thomas Dorrington, aged 32, who has been keeping house for his widowed mother and three sisters for the past seven years, was unanimously granted exemption by the Maidstone tribunal, the chairman remarking that the applicant was doing his duty to his country.

LATEST NEWS.

SERIOUS CHECK.

GERMANS LOSE SIXTY PER CENT. OF EFFECTIVES.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

The Germans seem to have met with a serious check at Vaux, where they attempted to surround the village after a fierce bombardment. When the enemy advanced, the French artillery curtain fire isolated the first wave of the assault from its support. Nevertheless, the German leaders gave orders for the advance to continue. Then was seen this tragic spectacle, says a writer in *Liberté*. One after the other German regiments broke through the barrier of fire. When they came out of the furnace the number of their soldiers was diminished by one half, and certain units are said to have lost sixty per cent. of their effectives before even reaching our positions. Nevertheless, the survivors rushed to attack our trenches. Even at the approaches to the village there were terrible *mêlées*. At one point alone the Germans charged no fewer than eight times, leaving each time many dead on the ground. Their supreme attempt, executed yesterday morning by forces calculated at six regiments, was most disastrous. When, with closed ranks, German infantry arrived before our barbed wire entanglements they were assailed by a concentrated fire from mitrailleuses and 75's, which literally mowed them down. An officer who saw this horrible hecatomb at close quarters affirms that the Germans left before Vaux more than four thousand dead.

On the barbed wire were hung veritable clusters of torn bodies. In many places the Germans were forced by order of their officers, who menaced them with revolvers, to climb over the heaped-up corpses of their dead comrades.

VERDUN BATTLE.

FRENCH PRESS VIEWS.

(PRESS ASSOCIATION WAR SPECIAL.)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

The newspapers are all of the opinion that the attack on Verdun, the second phase of which began the day before yesterday, may be prolonged for another week, perhaps more, if one may judge from the enemy's preparations and the manner in which he is acting.

As long as it lasts, one paper says, the forts to which we have been accustomed no longer count—neither the form of the front traced at leisure on the map when the communications were blank nor the form of government nor forms of diplomacy. Everything is in a state of flux and suspense, and in the policy to be followed in these feverish days only two things count—keeping the goal in sight and determination to reach it. The Germans know that, and are trying to strike everywhere at the same time.

The *Petit Parisien* writes:—The position at Douaumont includes the fort and village and a series of redoubts, which are all in our possession. An homeric struggle took place around the redoubt about 200 metres to the east of the fort. Three times lost and reconquered by us, it has remained finally in the hands of our troops, who are holding it firmly. All the enemy's efforts have broken down against the resistance of our heroic soldiers.

HOW BITLIS WAS TAKEN.

CAPTURES OF MEN AND GUNS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PETROGRAD, SATURDAY.

An official note issued here to-day says:—According to subsequent information regarding the fighting at Bitlis, our troops attacked the enemy's position without firing a shot. The attack was made by night during a snowstorm. Towards three o'clock in the morning a bayonet charge was made, and after a desperate resistance, the Turks were forced to retire. The position occupied by Turkish artillery was captured after hand-to-hand fighting, in which the defenders of the position, who fought desperately, were all killed. At this position, and on the pursuit which followed, we captured twenty guns of different type, all in good condition. On the Turkish positions we also captured a large number of gun and rifle cartridges, and in Bitlis itself a large depot of artillery ammunition. In the course of the pursuit, a large number of Turks was killed. The number of prisoners has increased. The officer prisoners alone number forty.

FRENCH MAGAZINE EXPLOSION.

MANY PERSONS KILLED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

A violent explosion occurred to-day in the Doulle Couronne powder magazine at Courneuve. Many persons are reported to have been injured.

ST. DENIS, SATURDAY.

The building in which the explosion took place this morning is the right wing of the fort called the Doulle Couronne. The fire which followed the explosion is still burning, but it will be limited in extent, the portions of the establishment which are intact being situated on the other side of the road. The fort was used as a store for munitions. Several civilians in the vicinity of the explosion were killed.

INDIAN BUDGET.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BOMBAY, MARCH 2.

The Bombay Press welcomes the Indian Budget as being just and statesmanlike. *The Times of India* says:—The financial situation is better than we had dared to hope. It has been met in a spirit of prudent boldness.

The *Civil and Military Gazette* is disappointed that a more generous contribution to the cost of the war was not announced.

SOUTH AFRICAN "FREEDOM."

DUTCH PASTOR'S REBUKE TO DE WET.

It will be recalled that General de Wet was recently taken to task by General Botha for his neglect to observe the conditions under which he was freed from prison before he had served the sentence imposed for his part in the rebellion. In the course of his reply to the Union Prime Minister, General de Wet admitted that he had said in an address to the people at De Wet's Dorp that "God might give us back our freedom this year without force."

The South African papers received this week contain a letter which the Rev. J. C. Hefer, a Free State Predikant, has addressed to de Wet. Mr. Hefer says:—

"What do you mean, General, when you talk of our sisters having upheld the ideals of freedom? Are we not free now? I am a born Free Stater; I grew up under President Brand, and for years I lived in the Transvaal when President Kruger reigned; I lived in the Free State under President Steyn, and I also lived under the Government in which you were Minister of Lands. Yet I do not know that in those times we had any more liberty or any more freedom than we have to-day, when we enjoy unlimited freedom in our everyday life, in our religion, in the education of our children, and in looking after our poor. I cannot understand what you want in the way of privileges and freedom. I think there is a want of gratitude to God, who has treated us so mercifully, and want of gratitude to the Government, who have done so much for the people in overlooking our wrong-doing and in safeguarding us against punishment."

The letter concludes:—"Lastly, General, would it not be better for you not to attend the demonstration, and to spend your remaining days away from the multitude, at home with your wife, with your Bible and prayer? Words like those uttered at De Wet's Dorp, in the present circumstances, repeated as few times at meetings of the people, are factors that will set the hearts of the people aglow, will mislead them, and will put the blood on fire. You know our people! Thousands and thousands of Europeans will remain silent, to withdraw yourself to your home."

CAPTURE OF THE APPAM.

SIR E. MEREWETHER'S EXPERIENCE.

Sir Edward Merewether, the newly-appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands, and ex-Governor of Sierra Leone, was the guest of the West Indian Club last week, and described his experience on the ss. Appam when she was captured by the Möwe.

He said it was an incident in his career which he would be rather glad to forget. The graphic, almost lurid, accounts appearing in the papers and attributed to him did not emanate from him at all. When they reached the United States they were absolutely besieged by enterprising American reporters, who swarmed round like flies, and fired off questions which he did not answer. One of the first questions to which he did reply was, "Were you well treated on board?" He answered "Yes," and that was expanded into a couple of columns. The principle on which the reporter apparently went was to collect graphic accounts from the more communicative passengers and put them down to him.

It was not until he reached England that he found that the accounts had been copied into the English newspapers, and he saw the most astounding things in his name, of which he was absolutely ignorant. He never opened his mouth on the incident of the capture of the Clan MacTavish, which they witnessed from a distance of five or six miles.

He did not think the Clan MacTavish ever realised the nature of the ship she was up against. The crew put up the best fight they could, but were, of course, absolutely overpowered. In a very short time everything was over. The Appam only saw the engagement from a distance, and when it was over they drew up. The Clan MacTavish was then on fire, and there was no hope of saving her, which rather annoyed the captain of the Möwe, as she had a valuable cargo of fresh meat, which would have been very useful. However, they had to sink her.

"As regards the treatment on board," said Sir Edward, "we were treated a great deal better than we expected. The German prize crew kept themselves very much to themselves, and did not interfere with us in any way, and I think it is only due to them to say that, on the whole, we were treated with very great consideration. If we had had an officer in command who had been disposed to make himself disagreeable he had every possible opportunity of doing so, but fortunately we had a man of great consideration, and apart from the fact—the somewhat galling and humiliating fact—that we were prisoners, we did not suffer much inconvenience except during the last few days, when the food ran short.

"For lunch there was on each plate three small biscuits and a piece of cheese, with pickles thrown in, I believe. I cannot say that we got very much more for breakfast or dinner, but there was enough to keep body and soul together, and no one suffered from actual starvation, although some of the young men with healthy appetites complained that they sometimes had to take in a hole or two in their belts."

Sir Edward Merewether mentioned that when the Appam was captured one of her boats was damaged, and to save the trouble of hoisting it on board it was left. It was picked up by another vessel, and gave colour to the idea that the Appam had been sunk.

EXPLOITS OF THE MOWE.

STORIES OF CREWS OF SUNK VESSELS.

Reuter's correspondent at Teneriffe telegraphs:—

Further particulars regarding the exploits of the Möwe, obtained from the crews of its victims landed here, show that the Westburn left the Möwe on February 9, and that the prisoners on board were informed they would be landed within a week on an island where it would be impossible to impart information regarding the matter. On February 15, when near Cape Verde, the Westburn commenced to steer a southerly course. The captains of the steamers sunk protested, whereupon they were offered a choice of being landed at the Canary Islands or on some "unknown island." They chose the former.

The treatment accorded the prisoners of the Westburn was harsh. The food was as good as possible in the circumstances, but the prisoners were constantly threatened with the bombs with which the men of the small prize crew were armed. The German master also expressed the intention of retaining on board, after landing the others, one captain, one engineer, and one steward in case the machinery was damaged or the stores were poisoned.

A difference of opinion exists as to the Möwe's guns. It is now thought that none was as large as 7-inch.

GERMAN HOSTAGES.

The captain and two gunners of the Clan Mactavish were taken on the Möwe because they had worked the liner's gun, as well as the lascar crew of the Clan boat.

The captain and second officer of the Westburn were also kept on the Möwe for having made false nationality signals before the ship's capture.

During the night the Westburn lay in harbour here the prisoners were not allowed amidships. They observed boats from the interned German steamers here plying all night, it is rumoured, for the purpose of removing some of the gold taken from the Appam, the prize crew's stock of bombs and grenades, and various stores.

The Spanish authorities are reticent, but it is generally believed they decided to treat the Westburn as a prize of war, rendering it necessary for her to proceed to sea immediately she was provisioned.

On Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock she proceeded slowly to sea, accompanied by a German coaling company's tug and a steam launch. About three miles from the harbour, and only three-quarters of a mile off the land, she anchored again. She sank in three-quarters of an hour, the German crew being taken off by the launch. The German crew have been interned. It is understood that an officer informed the authorities that the sinking of the ship was due to an accident, but this is generally discredited.

DECLINE OF THE GERMAN MARK.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

COPENHAGEN, MARCH 4.

To-day's official rate for "sight" exchange on Germany (per 100 marks) was 63.60 kroner, against 63.75 kroner yesterday, and 89 kroner normally.

STOCKHOLM, MARCH 4.

To-day's official rate for "sight" exchange on Germany (per 100 marks) was 63.70 kroner, against 63.85 kroner yesterday, and 89 kroner normally.

That on Austria was 44.65 kroner, against 44.75 kroner yesterday.

CHRISTIANIA, MARCH 4.

To-day's official rate for "sight" exchange on Germany (per 100 marks) was 63.75 kroner, against 63.90 kroner yesterday, and 89 kroner normally.

BERNE, MARCH 4.

To-day's official rate for "sight" exchange on Germany (per 100 marks), was 94.75 francs, against 93.60 francs yesterday, and 122.45 francs normally.

That on London (per pound sterling), remained at 25 francs, the same as yesterday, against 25.30 francs normally.

ARMY RESERVE GROUPS CALLED UP.

A proclamation was posted in London on Saturday calling up Army Reserve groups 25 to 32 inclusive. Nearly 40,000 copies of the proclamation were circulated by the Publicity Department after midnight on Friday for posting and other forms of display in London district. They were printed in black ink on a blue ground paper. The date on which the groups will commence to be called up is April 7th. Medical officers and other officers at the Central Recruiting Office were busy on Saturday facilitating the entry of a large crowd of men into active service.

ROLL OF HONOUR

FRANCE.

The following casualties in the Expeditionary Force are reported from General Headquarters:—

OFFICERS KILLED.

BURNETT, Sec. Lieut. J. D. N., 6th Royal West Kent Regiment.
JOHN, Sec. Lieut. T. J., 3rd South Wales Borderers.
PHILPOT, Sec. Lieut. J., Royal Engineers.
WOOD, Sec. Lieut. E. A. W., 9th Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, NOW REPORTED KILLED.

MAITLAND, Lieut. J. D., 9th Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

OFFICER DIED OF WOUNDS.

REID, Sec. Lieut. W. M., 23rd Manchester Regt.

OFFICERS WOUNDED.

CONYERS, Lieut. C. G. A. J., Ryl. Horse Artillery.
HOLLAND, Lieut. T. H., Royal Field Artillery.
JONES, Sec. Lieut. R. K., Royal Field Artillery.
LITTON, Lieut. E. F., Royal Field Artillery.
ROBERTS, Sec. Lieut. H. B., 3rd Welsh Regt.
SHAW, Capt. R. de V., Royal Field Artillery.
STRAW, Lieut. P. W., 8th Seaforth Highlanders.
UNDERHILL, Sec. Lieut. O., 1st Shropshire L.I.

MISSING, BELIEVED PRISONER OF WAR.

CLARKSON, Sec. Lieut. L., 7th East Yorks Regt.

The following casualties in the Expeditionary Force are reported:—

OFFICER WOUNDED.

SCAIFE, Sec. Lieut. L. C. P., 4th Northumberland Fusiliers.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, NOW REPORTED PRISONERS OF WAR.

PEARSON, Sec. Lieut. L. J., Royal Engineers and R.F.C.
READ, Sec. Lieut. B. R. C., 12th Rifle Brigade.
TOLLEMACHE, Lieut. R. A., 13th Sherwood Foresters.

SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE.

The following casualties in the South African Expeditionary Force are reported from Egypt:—

OFFICERS WOUNDED.

BLISS, Sec. Lieut. A. H. J., 3rd South African Infantry.

OFFICERS WOUNDED.

HEMMING, Major H. S. J., 3rd South African Infantry.
MEDLICOTT, Capt. R. F. C., 3rd South African
MILLS, Capt. H. P., 3rd South African Infantry.
SHARPE, Sec. Lieut. A. E., 3rd South African
SPRENGER, Capt. L. P., 3rd Sth. African Infantry.

AUSTRALIAN FORCE.

The following casualties in the Australian Imperial Force are reported:—

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, NOW REPORTED KILLED.

BURTON, Lieut. H. J., 16th Batt. Infantry.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED AND MISSING, NOW REPORTED DIED OF WOUNDS.

CABMICHAEL, Sec. Lieut. T. Mc. L., 7th Batt. Infantry.

OTHER RANKS.

FRANCE.

FEBRUARY 24th.

IRISH REGIMENTS ONLY.

DIED.

ROYAL IRISH FUSILIERS, 9th BATTALION (CO. ARMAGH).
Fitzsimons, 14177, Pte. E.

WOUNDED.

ROYAL IRISH RIFLES, 11th BATTALION (SOUTH ANTRIM).
McClelland, 2815, Pte. W.
LEINSTER REGIMENT, 7th BATTALION.
Murphy, 1690, Lce.-Corpl. P.

MEDITERRANEAN.

WOUNDED.

ROYAL IRISH RIFLES, 6th BATTALION.
Clenaghan, 11466, Pte. A.
ROYAL IRISH FUSILIERS, 6th BATTALION.
McCord, 5472, Pte. D.
CONNAUGHT RANGERS, 1st BATTALION.
Smith, 4709, Pte. R.
CONNAUGHT RANGERS, 5th BATTALION.
Roane, 4279, Pte. J.

BALKANS.

WOUNDED.

ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILIERS, 5th BATT.
Magrath, 24610, Pte. M.
CONNAUGHT RANGERS, 5th BATTALION.
Connolly, 5470, Pte. T.

OVERSEAS.

DIED.

ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT, 5th BATTALION.
Tobin, 3/8032, Pte. M.

MR ASQUITH'S WOUNDED SON.

Lieut.-Commander Arthur Asquith, son of the Prime Minister, arrived in London on Saturday on leave. Mr. Asquith will be remembered, was wounded in the Dardanelles, and it was while visiting him in Egypt that Miss Violet Asquith (now Mrs. Bonham-Carter) contracted the attack of typhoid which delayed her marriage. Mr. Asquith has quite recovered from his wound.

OBITUARY.

PROFESSOR W. A. KNIGHT.

Professor William Angus Knight, LL.D. (Glasgow), died at his residence, Greta Lodge, Keswick, on Saturday. He was Professor of Moral Philosophy at St. Andrew's University from 1875 to 1902. He held many other scholastic appointments, and was a voluminous writer. In recognition of his eminent services in English literature, Professor Knight was placed upon the Civil Pension List about six years ago.

The death has taken place suddenly at Haslemere of Rev. George A. Suttle, minister, well-known in Free Church circles in London, and predecessor of Mr. Silvester Horne, M.P., at Whitfield.

THE FRENCH NAVY.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PARIS, SATURDAY.

Vice-Admiral Le Bon has been appointed Chief of the Naval Staff.

HARRISON-FREWIN OPERA COMPANY.

The first week of their visit was brought to a conclusion by the Harrison Frewin Opera Company yesterday. At the matinée the company performed "Carmen" before a large audience, and the Gaiety Theatre was well filled in the evening, when "The Lily of Killarney" was staged.

DRUNKENNESS AMONGST SOLDIERS' WIVES.

BRAY MAGISTRATES DISAGREE.

Mr. James M. Magee, Chairman of the Bray Urban Council, presided on Saturday at the meeting of the Bray Borough Court in the Courthouse, Bray.

The Chairman, before the business began, said he would like to make some reference to observations which had fallen from Sir Albert Meldon, R.M., on the previous court day on the subject of drinking among soldiers' wives who were receiving separation allowances. He had obtained figures from the police which went to show that drunkenness amongst soldiers' wives in Bray had but very slightly increased. He thought that Sir Albert Meldon's remarks had been unfair to soldiers, their wives, their dependents, and the community at large. Constabulary, Sir Albert Meldon should not have made such statements until he had been supplied with statistics.

Sir Albert Meldon said he was not aware that Mr. Magee was going to speak on this subject that day. It was a peculiar coincidence he also had returns supplied to him by the police, and from those returns he found that since the war and the separation allowances the number of cases of drunkenness amongst women in Bray had increased by one-fourth.

Mr. Magee said that the figures supplied to him by the police showed that since the commencement of the war the decrease of drunkenness amongst women had only been one case in every month, or a half months. That was a very small percentage when they considered a number of men they had sent to the front, and the number of men who had come home on leave. Considering also the hundreds of pounds in money which had come to Bray he thought it was unfair to run the township down and to run down also the soldiers and their dependents. The whole increase in drunkenness amongst women in Bray since the start of the war amounted to eight cases.

Captain the Hon de Vere Parry, R.M., said that regarding the statements of Sir Albert Meldon he had on other occasions dissociated himself from them.

Mr. Langden said that in view of the large number of men who had been on leave from Bray a small increase of drinking amongst soldiers wives might be considered.

Sir Albert Meldon said that the fact that there had been an increase in drunkenness justified his remarks. As he thought drinking amongst women receiving separation allowances should be stopped.

Mr. Magee said they all hoped that drunkenness would be stopped amongst women. As regards the soldiers' wives in Bray he held that their record was excellent. Sir Albert Meldon had quoted an amiable lady in England. There was another lady—lifted at that—suffering from the same mania.

Captain the Hon. De Vere Parry said he was a man-at-arms at Arklow, and knew that the sobriety of the women there was marvellous.

Sir Albert Meldon said that there was no question as to his figures being right, but that Mr. Magee and he disagreed.

Mr. Magee said they had disagreed with the figures given by Sir Albert Meldon.

The matter dropped.

HACKNEY SHOW AWARDS.

GOLD MEDAL FOR IRISH MARE.

The Hackney Horse Society's Show concluded at the Agricultural Hall, London, yesterday, when the challenge cup and gold medals were awarded.

Judging was resumed in the pony stallion classes. The three-year-olds were headed by Rip, a bay which was a second prize winner last year. He was shown by Mrs. Alfred C. King Romsey. Another beautiful pony was Fusee, the first prize winner in the class for four-year-olds and over. He was exhibited by Mr. W. W. Bourne, Watford, and has a creditable show record. The gold medal for the best young Hackney stallion was won by Capenor Foremost, a three-year-old chestnut shown by Mr. Henry B. Brandt, Mitfield, Surrey.

There was a keen contest for the gold medal for the best stallion in the senior classes, which eventually was awarded to Kirkburn Leader, belonging to Mr. P. W. Buttle. The gold medal for the best young mare was won by Adbolton Bountiful, Mr. Ernest Bewley's (Rathgar, Dublin) two-year-old chestnut.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

WAR OFFICE, MARCH 3, 1916.

REGULAR FORCES.

COMMANDS AND STAFF.

The undermentioned appointments are made:—

PERSONAL STAFF.

Aide-de-Camp—Temporary Lieutenant J. C. Bush, Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment), and to be transferred to the General List.

GENERAL STAFF.

General Staff Officers, 1st Grade—Lieutenant Colonel Reginald St. G. Grierson, Royal Artillery, vice Colonel L. R. Carleton, D.S.O.

Lieutenants-Colonel Edward J. Buckley, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, temporarily, vice A. L. H. Wade, Reserve of Officers.

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Graded for purposes of pay as Staff Lieutenants, 1st Class—Temporary Lieutenant H. S. H. Ashmead-Bartlett, temporary Lieutenant R. F. Henderson.

Graded for purposes of pay as Staff Lieutenants, 2nd Class—Temporary Lieutenant J. H. Thomas, Royal Engineers, and to be transferred to the General List; Second Lieutenant (on probation) D. H. Lindsay, Royal Garrison Artillery, Special Reserve.

ATTACHED TO HEADQUARTER UNITS.

Colonel, Royal Artillery, Graded for purposes of pay as an Assistant Adjutant-General—Colonel L. G. F. Gordon, C.B., D.S.O., vice Colonel W. G. Hanna, retired pay.

Second Lieutenant H. W. Towner, Royal Artillery, to be Captain Instructor in Gunnery, to be seconded, and to be temporary Lieutenant.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

MILITARY WING.

The undermentioned appointments are made:—

Flight Commanders, from Flying Officers, and to be temporary Captains while so employed—Lieutenant R. Egerton, Royal Irish Fusiliers; Second Lieutenant W. F. Alcock, Special Reserve.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery—Second Lieutenant F. H. Crossley, from 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons to be Lieutenant; Second Lieutenant D. S. Newnham is cashiered by sentence of a General Court Martial; temporary Captain F. A. Woodcock to be Adjutant, vice temporary Captain L. W. L. Jackson.

CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS.

Oscar Loewenthal to be temporary Second Lieutenant (on probation).

MEMORANDA.

Colonel F. A. Fortescue, C.B., is placed on the Half-pay List.

Brevet Colonel (temporary Brigadier General) A. F. Sillem, from Worcestershire Regiment, to be Colonel.

Second Lieutenant W. A. Berry, 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards, to be temporary Lieutenant whilst Adjutant of a Cavalry Depôt.

S. J. Jackson to be temporary Lieutenant.

Walter Whitall to be temporary Second Lieutenant.

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS.

ADMIRALTY, FRIDAY.

Commanders—B. G. Washington to President, additional, for Admiralty War Staff, to date March 7.

A. M. Watts-Brown to Liffey, to date March 1.

F. L. Pelham to Neptune, W. Jehane to Benbow, both undated; Sir C. R. Biano to Queen Mary, to date March 15.

Lieutenant-Commander D. Campbell granted rank of Acting Commander, to date March 2.

Lieutenants—J. F. A. Bremridge to Undaunted, D. B. O'Connell to Sewell, C. Hills to Princess Margaret, H. C. Treherne to Exmouth, A. R. T. Williams to President, additional, temporary, for duty in Hydrographic Department, to date March 7. Weimar Abbott, additional, Y. H. F. G. Wells to Conqueror, M. E. Despard to Hope, C. J. B. Colthurst to Tiger, all to date March 2.

Sub-Lieutenants—T. E. Dockey to Antrim, E. O. Sonnenschein to Exmouth, J. F. Slayter to Russell, L. P. M. Milner to Princess Royal, C. A. Shaw to Cumberland, to date March 2.

Acting Sub-Lieutenants—R. Bolingbroke to Paragon, J. Beaks to Monarch, H. Dixon to Centurion, J. E. Caffin to Queen Elizabeth, to date March 7.

Clerk R. G. Phillips to Centurion, to date March 2.

Acting Gunner T. E. J. Francis to Acheron, to date March 2.

Artificer Engineers—W. M. Calder to Vulture, undated; W. H. Leonard to Russell, to date March 2.

PROMOTIONS.

Mate W. A. Bumbleton promoted to Lieutenant, to date February 28.

Paymasters—F. W. Webste, T. R. Waterhouse, J. Seddon, and A. S. Brumby, all promoted to Staff Paymasters, to date March 2.

Chief Engineers on the Retired List—H. L. Smith promoted to Acting Artificer Engineer for war service, to date March 13.

ROYAL NAVAL AIR SERVICE.

G. D. Nelson and C. Birch granted temporary commissions as Lieutenants, R.N.V.R., and appointed to President, additional, for R.N.A.S., to date February 29 and March 2 respectively; J. C. Atkinson granted temporary rank of Sub-Lieutenant, R.N.V.R., and appointed to President, additional, for R.N.A.S., to date February 29.

G. T. H. Pack, D. Leyland, J. Hobbs, A. P. Case, F. G. Edgington, and Archer Mayo to be promoted to Warrant Officers, 2nd Grade, to date March 1.

Honorary Lieutenants—R. Taxer (retired) to President, additional, for Wicklow, A. Nevitt (retired) to President, additional, for Kingstown, to date March 6.

CINEMATOGRAPHS IN RATHMINES.

A special meeting of Rathmines Urban District Council was held on Saturday at the Town Hall. The Chairman, Mr. John Sibthorpe, J.P., presided, and the other councillors present were:—Messrs. W. G. Bailey, G. Palmer Beater, C.E., J.P.; R. Denne Bolton, J.P.; H. Benson Goulding, M.D.; William Ireland, J.P.; Francis M'Bride, J.P.; Henry J. M'Cormick, John Russell, J.P.; Thomas Saul, J.P.; and John A. Smyth; also Mr. Seacome Mason, Clerk to the Council.

The Chairman proposed that the licences for the two Cinematograph theatres—the Princess and Sandford—which had been prepared by the Law Agent in accordance with the Council's resolution, should be sealed.

Mr. M'Bride seconded the resolution.

Mr. Saul thought it was only fair that the proprietors of these cinematograph theatres should be given a month's notice.

Mr. Ireland said that was unnecessary.

The motion to seal the licences was carried.

Mr. Saul dissenting.

The Council, at the meeting on Wednesday last, resolved by a majority that the cinematograph theatres should not be allowed to open on Sundays.

POLICE COURTS.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

(Before Mr. C. Swifte, K.C.)

James M'Grath, a carter, of 16 Cuffe lane, was charged with stealing a bag of seed potatoes from the goods store at the Great Southern and Western Railway, Kingsbridge, on Friday night. Mr. James Brady appeared on behalf of the railway company. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Richard Whitfield, of the railway police, that he saw M'Grath as he was driving away from the goods store after delivering goods. There was a boy of ten a son of M'Grath, sitting on a tarpaulin in the cart. Whitfield wanted to examine the tarpaulin, but M'Grath would not let him, and drove off. The railway official sprang to a wheel of the cart, and had the horse stopped by two watchmen. A police constable having been summoned, Whitfield searched the cart. Under the tarpaulin he found a small bag containing a cwt. of seed potatoes, and addressed to James M'Keogh, of Ballina, Killaloe. The bag was one of two which had been landed in on the 1st of March by a carter of Hogg and Robertson, and were to be forwarded to Killaloe. Owing to the tarnish of goods, and the scarcity of waggons, the railway company had been unable to forward the bags immediately. Constable Hannon (88 A) deposed that M'Grath, after his arrest, said: "I know nothing at all about it." M'Grath now told the magistrate that when he was backing his horse into the store he found the bag of potatoes in his way, and put it up

THE ENEMY'S POINT OF VIEW.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.)

scheme to devise fictitious support for German credits. In a financial article saying that Germany is about to raise a fourth war loan the *Frankfurter Zeitung* declares that it will be necessary to put German shareholders in a position to know what dividends they may expect this year. It is therefore urged that all limited companies which cannot at once publish statements of their probable profits issue "estimates" of their probable profits and dividends.

"No Complaints" to the Front.

Under the heading of "No Complaints to Men at the Front" the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* brings out a long article which deplores the habit German housewives have of unburdening their hearts of their troubles to their husbands and relatives in the trenches. It says that thousands of letters are found on Germans taken prisoners "which complain in exaggerated fashion of the unavoidable hardships that war brings to the German nation, and represent the people at home as tired of the war and starving."

The *Tageszeitung* carefully points out that some soldiers will know that their wives are merely exaggerating, but others will be deeply affected by the news. Coupled to this is the very bad effect such letters have in enemy countries, when they are found on German prisoners. In fact, such letters are a direct sin against German soldiers and also against the Fatherland. "A real scarcity of necessary foodstuffs does not exist anywhere in Germany," says the *Tageszeitung*, as it demonstrates that the people at home are only suffering now what their soldiers at the front suffer from day to day almost as part of their profession.

The Latest Decalogue.

The *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* is unwearied in the manufacture of decalogues. Its latest "ten commandments" is for the use of Hamburg citizens who remain at home:—

1. Thou shalt love thy Fatherland before all else in the world.
2. Thou shalt think of thy brother at the front, honour him, and be grateful to him.
3. Trust German arms and fear no enemy.
4. Shouldst thou hear secrets of the army, hold thy hand over thy mouth.
5. Shouldst thou hear of losses do not exaggerate them.
6. Honour the noble bread, and be not wasteful of it.
7. If thou hast riches in abundance, store it not in safes.
8. Do thy work in thy calling, and thus serve the Fatherland.
9. Be ready to bear every sacrifice without murmuring, and bear your lot with dignity.
10. When peace comes do not forget what thou hast learnt in war.

"Butter Heroes."

Butter is once more the subject of a "passionate" article in the *Kolnische Zeitung*, thundering forth against those individuals who "attach an exaggerated importance to their palate and stomach." The anxious housewife, it says, "whose ideal extends at questions of the stomach, sends out her servants on the sporting hunt after butter as if life and happiness depended upon buttered bread, and threatens with reprisals the shopkeepers who would not help her unfair will. The master of the house, on his part, forgets his manly dignity, and returns home with a piece of cleverly obtained butter in his hands, proud as if he had shot a pheasant. There are, it is said, families who by a complicated system of purchases and at the cost of great efforts by their servants have succeeded in amassing respectable quantities of butter, and if it is suggested to them that by such action they do an injustice to those who are in real need of butter, they gently reply: "But we have always been used to cooking with butter."

The Rhenish journal is very indignant, and, recalling the enthusiasm of the first days of the war, exclaims quite in the style of the ancient prophet:—"Anybody who is not ashamed to deplore the absence of butter from the breakfast table does not deserve that our warriors should fight and endure martyrdom for him. We wish that the shells of hostile besieging army may burst on his house, and bring home to him the smallness of the things which he has been taking so tragically."

The article winds up with the homely invitation to the true patriots to show their contempt for the "butter heroes":

"Without social consideration or hesitation, to give them a blow in the face or when they talk about a butter calamity and such things."

Mixed Advertisements.

Among advertisements in the *Tageblatt* are the following:—

Flag Paper in rolls. New Turkey, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria. Black-red-yellow and all German colours for use with Eagles and Iron Crosses. These papers in other varieties may also be had for papering walls.

A Great Attraction. Balkan Train Postcards, after the original drawing of the well-known artist, Gustav Tischer, with German, Hungarian, Bulgarian, and Turkish text. Valuable for collections. Original.

Goods Waggons. What factory is in a position to supply to a friendly Power about 1,000 goods waggons, 100 passenger carriages, and 50 luggage vans? Apply to the Grain-Trading Company (Limited), Budapest.

A Munich business man who has been obliged to close his well-known business owing to the war is prepared to engage in the sale on a sensational attraction, which will enable him to retain the services of his 20 travellers, who must otherwise be discharged.

Salad Oil Substitute. Unsurpassed excellence. Neutral taste. Golden yellow. May be kept for unlimited period.

The Shrinkage of the Wurst.

The sausage known as a "Prager Wurst" is one of the most esteemed delikatessen of the capital of Bohemia. There is, however, universal complaint that its proportions are rapidly diminishing owing to the stress of war. The following story from the *Vossische Zeitung* illustrates this:—

Lady—"What does the Prager Wurst cost?"

Shopman—"Twenty-four heller."

Lady—"All right, wrap it up for me."

Shopman—"Have you any paper? Paper is very scarce, gracious lady."

Lady—Paper? Oh, yes, here's my tram ticket, which I have luckily not thrown away. But pack it carefully, so that it won't fall through the hole which the conductor punched in the ticket."

German Bishops and Belgium.

Cardinal Mercier is at present finding no more favour in Germany than Mr. Asquith. During the past week or two the German authorities at Brussels have been carrying on a fresh campaign against him, especially in connection with his visit to Rome. It culminates in an article in the *Cologne Gazette* announcing that the German Bishops have decided to give no answer at all to Cardinal Mercier's famous invitation to submit the question of German atrocities in Belgium to a Court of arbitration. The article repeats all the old fictions about Cardinal Mercier's proposal and its publication, and says:—

"The German Bishops, who in civil matters are simply subjects of the German Empire and patriotic citizens, are invited to sit down with enemies in order to decide whether the German Army and the German administration in Belgium have behaved rightly. The Belgian Bishops cannot have been serious. The letter of the Belgian Bishops constitutes in a word a hostile act against the German Empire and an abuse of the Episcopal authority and the religious freedom which has always been so carefully respected by the German administration in Belgium."

Even the German Roman Catholic Press has been made to assist in the new Press campaign, but it is obvious that the proposal of arbitration has severely shaken German confidence in the German official fictions.

INTOXICATED SAILORS.

Seven of the crew of the Liverpool steamship Domingo de Lavinga, which arrived at Greenock from Cuba, were at Greenock on Saturday charged with having contravened the Defence of the Realm Regulations by joining the ship in an intoxicated state during a voyage. All were remitted to the sheriff.

WARWICK PRISON TO BE CLOSED

Official intimation has been received that Warwick Prison will shortly be closed owing to the large decrease of prisoners, and the need of economy in public expenditure.

POINTS FROM THE CRITICS.

EXPERT VIEWS ON VERDUN.

French Strategy and German Tactics.

We have in the whole of this great battle a contrast between a certain French strategical conception and a certain German tactical tradition, each enriched by new experience gained in this war. The general French strategical conception at work is familiar. In all its forms there underlies that conception the determination of an enemy superior offensive by the smallest number which can sustain the shock, and the maintaining in reserve of all that can possibly be so spared, with the object of bringing such fresh forces into play just at the right moment to achieve a maximum result. From the smallest details to the largest plans this strategical conception is seen underlying the operations of the French command. You have it in that vast business, the battle of the Marne; you have it in the particular instance of the two fresh divisions which were launched with exact art at the precise moment necessary to recover the plateau of Douaumont last Saturday.

It is obvious, and has been obvious all the years during which this conception has been discussed, for and against, up and down countries, when they are found on German prisoners. In fact, such letters are a direct sin against German soldiers and also against the Fatherland. "A real scarcity of necessary foodstuffs does not exist anywhere in Germany," says the *Tageszeitung*, as it demonstrates that the people at home are only suffering now what their soldiers at the front suffer from day to day almost as part of their profession.

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SERBIAN ARMY RECUPERATING.

THE RETREAT TO CORFU.

A French mission, under General de Mondésir, is at present engaged in the reorganisation of the Serbian Army in Corfu. There is now on the island a force of 150,000 men, who will, after re-equipment and the necessary rest, be able to take the field again. It is not a question of creating a new Army, for, battered though the force is, it has maintained its formation.

Three months ago it seemed impossible that the Serbian Army, compelled to retreat through the Albanian mountains in the depth of winter, should again count as a serious factor in the war. No people with a less degree of courage and of physical hardihood could have maintained their fighting strength. The miracle has been accomplished.

ITALY'S LOYALTY.

But it is not so generally realised that the securing of this island retreat for the Serbian Army has been very largely the work of Italy.

The jealousy that has existed between Italy and Serbia for many years, on account of their conflicting aspirations and interests in the Adriatic, is common knowledge. But the Italians set aside their own prejudices, and placed the interests of the Allies before local and national considerations. Italian warships saved the remnants of the Serbian Army under circumstances of great difficulty and danger. The port of San Giovanni di Medua is fifty miles nearer the Austrian naval base of Cattaro than it is to Brindisi, and only small ships could enter its inadequate harbour. But close inshore, and with the active assistance of the escort had to be strong enough to tackle the strongest Austrian force that might be sent out. And when the force was landed from French and Italian transports it had to cultise the whole business was complete in thirty days sooner than was expected.

THE BRITISH MISSION.

To a small British mission in the Adriatic there fell the duty of arranging for the dispatch of supplies from Italian to Albanian ports, and for the forwarding of supplies. Parties of British Engineers and Army Service men by improvising bridges and improving the Albanian roads had made it possible to transport the troops to the sea practicable, across the mountains to the coast. The British mission was under the direction of Mr. H. H. Lamb, political chief, and Brigadier-General F. P. S. Taylor, C.M.G., in military command.

BRITISH AT VYLONA.

ROME, Feb. 26 (Delayed).

A statement issued by General Headquarters reveals the interesting fact that a British Adriatic Mission, with the help of the Italian troops, has built a pier at Avlona to facilitate the revictualling and evacuation of the Serbian troops. The Italian commander, in expressing his thanks to Major H. J. Solomon, adds his satisfaction that the British Mission is remaining at Avlona.—Reuter.

THE ENEMY IN SERBIA.

CONFIDENCE OF THE GERMAN TROOPS.

Dr. Elsie Inglis, the head of all the Scottish Women's Hospitals, has returned from Krushevatz in Serbia, where she has been working at a hospital, with her staff of fourteen doctors, nurses, and orderlies, since a fortnight or so before the German bombardment and occupation of the town. They had their own hospital at first, but were ordered by the Germans to transfer their patients to the Prefecture, and then, with only one day's grace, to the big Serbian military hospital. This had 400 beds, but during the week of the retreat and immediately afterwards was crowded with as many as 1,300 patients at one time, many of them serious surgical cases, packed together like sardines in the corridors and even piled into the storehouses and other buildings near. The Germans had commandeered all the hospital stores sent to Serbia for the various units—they boasted that they had secured enough British stuff to equip an army-corps for a year—and they would not answer any of this for the wounded Serbians, who had to sleep in their dirty uniforms since they had no blankets. The very capable Serbian doctor in charge of the hospital gave the women charge of the ground floor with the adjoining annexes, including the isolation ward, the sanitation, and the laundry department. Everything—the half-starved condition of the patients, the difficulties in achieving even elementary cleanliness—announced the outbreak of typhus. Dr. Elsie Inglis is very proud of the fact that the only two cases of typhus were among civilians. Her staff worked magnificently.

The Serbian prisoners who were marched through Krushevatz on their way to concentration camps in Austria used to spend their nights sheltereless in the hospital grounds camped around big fires. The wounded men were brought to the hospital for treatment and if they could walk were then sent off again next day. Some of the wounded men brought in by train were very badly wounded, and there were many cases of frostbite.

The doctors and nurses alike speak with enthusiasm of the pluck shown by their patients. It was evident that they had made a magnificent stand. Krushevatz was an army base, and as soon as the Germans had passed on the Austrians took possession. It was a favourite complaint with them that the Germans had taken everything and left nothing for them. What had done this even in Austria, said one Austrian officer, who added bitterly, "And they call that Kultur." The troops passing through were absolutely sober. There was no deed nothing for them to drink. They had been often told to treat the Englishwomen with respect, an order rigidly obeyed.

The doctors say they heard no stories of atrocities committed in Serbia, probably because of this enforced sobriety. They also say that they were much impressed with the confidence and the perfect equipment of all the German troops whom they saw pass through. Some of the soldiers said it was a "bad war," but there was no sign of anything but confidence and a determination to fight to the end. The Austrian troops were not so well dressed, but their uniforms were of quite good, durable stuff, and they, too, showed no signs of discouragement.

There is great scarcity of food in Serbia. Dr. Inglis said she did not see how a famine could be avoided since, in spite of the very valiant efforts of the women, so much land must remain untilled. Krushevatz is now being used as a training centre for Austrian recruits. Every bit of spare ground has been requisitioned, and all day long the sound of rifles and machine-guns is heard. The hospital staff had a chance to return to England at Christmas, but refused as there were still hundreds of men in the hospital. By the beginning of February there were less than 100, and these could be transferred, so Dr. Inglis decided to return.

WAR BONUS FOR SEAMEN.

Following up the concessions to boatmen ashore, the War Office has granted a weekly war bonus of two shillings to ordinary seamen on War Department vessels, and one shilling to other ratings.

offensive or defensive turn must depend largely upon the decision reached at the last Allies' War Council and the extent to which the decisions may have been or may still be modified by the fighting on the line of the Meuse. Russia's reserves of trained men are known to have been enormously increased during the winter, but it may still be desirable to wait a little longer in order that a full supply of rifles may be available. In that case, and very possibly in any case, we may look for an early date to see another great German offensive launched against the Russians with either Petrograd or Kieff as an objective, the Riga-Dvinsk region being perhaps the more likely region to be selected for the preliminary thrust. Germany knows well enough that she will have to reckon with Russia sooner or later, and may hope by a combined naval and military effort of the first magnitude to produce in the Gulf of Finland and Livonia a sufficient impression to paralyse the Russian offensive much as it was paralysed by von Mackensen's smashing campaign in Galicia last May. But Russia now and Russia then are two very different propositions, and if the German blow fails in this quarter it will certainly be warded off. The chances are, too, that it will be swiftly countered, not only by a fresh menace to East Prussia, but by pressure on other parts of the Austro-German front which should perpetually be anticipating the enemy by thinking out and forestalling his future moves. Above all, the utmost economy and efficiency of administration and staff work is called for, as well as the simplest and most effective methods of troop-leading in the field, if we aspire to attack successfully.

Much has been heard about blasting the way with high explosive, the necessity for guns, ammunition, and so forth. All these requirements are essential, but the best conceivable Staff arrangements are no less necessary, and also one other indispensable arm. Where our attacks failed, it has been not only because our infantry was unskilfully handled, but also because there was nothing like enough of it, even with the most judicious dispositions, to win an important victory. We must have plenty of infantry in reserve for our next offensive. Incidentally, they will also be very handy if the enemy perseveres in his attacking policy.—The Military Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*.

Why Not a Counter-Offensive?

One French writer, M. Gustave Hervé, in the *Victoire*, asks in a slightly complaining fashion why "the French should not simply hold firm before the German offensive at Verdun, and take the opportunity to strike a blow at other parts of the front while the Germans are employing their best troops in the Verdun fighting." There is no doubt that General Joffre would be glad enough to do this, if it were prudent; but when the enemy accumulates force which is evidently vast, and the total of which can only be guessed at, it is necessary to consider that he might succeed in compelling the abandonment of the fortress region. It would then be a risky thing to have a large body of one's troops committed to a fight elsewhere, from which they might not be able to be easily withdrawn. The whole situation in this war, with the possible final summer of combat approaching, is too critical to allow of risks being run light-heartedly. The British force might have been expected to be meeting, perhaps, but the reports from our parts of the country allege that the weather has been too utterly bad for the launching of anything big. As for the activity in Champagne, it is likely that the Germans expected an attack there, and collected reserves to meet it; then, finding the French quiescent, they used their extra men to create a diversion—for it will be time enough to attack on the big scale —and nothing but the big scale is important when the enemy, having recoiled in utter exhaustion, is engaged in binding up his wounds and counting his terrific losses; when also the season of year ensures that the advance can be kept up week after week and month after month.—The Military Correspondent of *The Scotsman*.

The Moral of Verdun.

The first battle of Verdun will have driven home some tactical truths, and even at this distance it is apparent that no position where the surface of the ground is irregular can be so strongly entrenched, but that determined infantry, backed by an adequate artillery and artillery work—that is the whole of the method. Just as the French propose to succeed through exactitude in an art and through a perilously close calculation which suits their genius, so does the Prussian tradition rely upon the peculiar advantage it possesses, the certitude that no losses will destroy the cohesion of its infantry. The Prussian claims, not without justice, that his type of discipline can maintain in being for days a "battering-ram" of density, weight, and momentum superior to any other service. That it can therefore deliver a blow of an intensity superior to what any other service could deliver; because no matter how packed the advancing bodies, and no matter how enormous the consequent losses, either they will not break, or if they break, fresh bodies will at once be ready to renew the charge.

We saw this principle at work upon the Grand Couronne 18 months ago, where it broke down altogether and failed. We saw it months afterwards upon the Dunajetz, where the new lesson taught by the war of the new scale upon which heavy munitions must be provided, had been learnt by the Prussian Higher Command, and, where it was aided by the great inferiority of the enemy in that same matter.

We are now seeing precisely the same tactical tradition being put to the supreme test against the steep, straight hills of the Meuse. —Mr. Hilaire Belloc in *Land and Water*.

Importance of Reserves.

The French appear to have met the German onset at Verdun with reserves just sufficient to maintain the conflict, and their counter-attack with one Army Corps at Douaumont, admirably timed and led, was exactly the stroke that the situation demanded. But there is no sign that General Joffre has yet drawn on or even moved his main reserves, and, until the Germans have fully exposed their hand, the moment has not come for him to do so.

We must credit the Germans with the knowledge that operations like those round Verdun, if successful, lead nowhere, since many fresh positions in rear of the Meuse remain to be taken in succession, and there must be a limit to the sacrifice of 150,000 men for each foot miles gained in depth of penetration. Considering how the Germans stand they must throw for a greater stake than Verdun. We must, therefore, be prepared for it. If the Germans have a more limited objective, or if the hetacombs of Verdun weaken resolutions to end them, it is so much to the good.

Our cue is to keep cool, to be avaricious in depleting our main reserves, and to remember every day bad which does not add to the decision reserve or further weakening of division to these reserves themselves. We are fretting because our British troops are not yet engaged in the fight. We need not fret. They are acting closely with our French and Belgian Allies, and when their hour strikes they will take their part. It is Joffre who is playing this hand, and victory depends upon psychology and temperament.—The Military Correspondent of *The Times*.

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